

PRESS - 1994

JANUARY - JULY

Sowetan editors predict tough time

PETER FABRICIUS

The Argus Foreign Service

WASHINGTON — The editors of the Sowetan believe they are going to have a tougher time retaining their independent voice under an ANC government than they did under apartheid.

Their fears about running South Africa's largest black newspaper under a new black government are described in a profile by Washington Post South African correspondent Paul Taylor published yesterday.

Sowetan managing editor Joe Thloloe and other Sowetan news staffers offer their views that life will get tougher for them because a black government might expect favourable coverage from the black Press.

Some staffers also express misgivings about the Sowetan's imminent transfer from the sole control of the Argus group to half-ownership by a black trust, expressing fears that this might open the way to ANC control.

"There's no doubt we will be the most vulnerable newspaper, because we have the biggest circulation in the black community," Mr Thloloe is quoted as saying.

"I expect to have to fight tooth and nail with the new government to retain our independence — but I believe we can do it"

Describing the difficulties of operating an independent newspaper in an intolerant climate, editor Aggrey Klaaste predicts that the pressures will increase after the election "for he expects the Sowetan to have lots to bark about as a watchdog of the first black-led government"

Mr Klaaste adds "I sometimes wonder why the ANC wants to get into power, it's going to be such a bloody mess at first.

"Very little work has been done to get blacks in shape to run the country. We just don't have the skills yet

"That means the whites will still be running things for quite a while, and everyone will get mad"

Some staffers are wary about black ownership of the Sowetan "I'm afraid it could be a way for the ANC to get control of the papers," investigative reporter Ruth Bhengu is quoted as saying.

(243) ARG 5/1/94

r
t
k
c
t
l
n
a

First newsman to die in S Africa this year

Sowetan 11/11/94

By Themba Molefe
Political Correspondent

SABC journalist Mr Charles Moikanyang survived a bullet in his hip to tell the story. Mr Abdul Shariff did not

Shariff, a freelance photographer with *Associated Press*, is the first journalist to be killed in South Africa this year

His death in Katlehong on Sunday brings the total to five over the past four years of newsmen who have died in the line of duty in this country

Astoundingly, three of them were SABC staff members

Those who have died since 1990 are

- SABC staff member Mr Thomas Sibiya, who was burned in his car in Durban in September 1990,

- *Visnews* journalist Mr Aziz Tassiem, who died in another car accident while returning from a job,

- SABC cameraman Mr Hector Nkwanyana, who was knocked down by a car as he filmed a march in Mantzberg, and

- SABC journalist Mr Calvin Thosago, who was knifed and hacked with pangas while on duty in Sharpeville last year

In 1992 alone, 49 journalists were killed all over the world and 11, including Thosago, in 1993

South Africa is one of the most violent countries in the world, and that cannot be doubted.

Mortuaries on the East Rand are like a scene out of Auschwitz, said Mr Joe

Slovo of the South African Communist Party. He spoke these words barely 24 hours before he and Mr Cyril Ramaphosa set out on a fact-finding mission which ended in the tragedy of Sunday

Katlehong-Tokoza is where one of five women survived to tell the story of how she and four others were gang-raped almost by all the hostel inmates. The other four were later murdered

This is like a scene out of civil war-ravaged Bosnia (243)

Tragedy

To journalists, though, what starts out as a routine assignment may end up in tragedy — as was the case with Shariff (and Thosago). Although not completely ruled out, who would expect that politicians of the stature of Cyril Ramaphosa and Joe Slovo could be shot at just like that?

Argument is that the two leaders were actually offering themselves — and/or their followers as sacrificial lambs by going past that hostel. They knew chaos would break out

But that is not the issue here as it was journalists and two other people still to be named who died

Some witnesses said journalists were specifically targeted as the ANC entourage filed past Mazibuko Hostel — singularly picked out

If this is true it is indeed a sad day for freedom of expression and of the Press. One can also ask "But why?"

And this brings to mind Moikanyang's words during one of

his on-the-spot reporting assignments in violence-torn Daveyton, also on the East Rand. In the background was the rapid sound of gunfire. The air around him was thick with black smoke from burning tyres — you could almost smell the smouldering rubber through the television screen. Clutching a microphone Moikanyang said, almost pleading to whoever sent him there "Sometimes one wonders what one is doing here and how one arrived here in the first place"

The next day his lean frame leaped in front of you from the screen at 7pm

Those who, like Moikanyang, have lived to tell the story, know what he has gone through

Ninety hours after Thosago died last April foreign television cameraman Mr Sam Msibi survived five bullets after being attacked by a group of men on the East Rand

Thosago's colleague was attacked but was fortunate to survive

Crisis

The Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists, which represents more than 300 000 journalists in 87 unions, said last year that a crisis was gripping journalists throughout the world

Figures last year compiled by the Committee to Protect Journalists showed that in Africa alone, at least 378 incidents of violence, involving 294 journalists, were reported

Star 12/11/93

Protest march planned

■ BY SUSAN SMUTS

Journalists are planning to march through Katlehong in protest against Sunday's killing of photographer Abdul Shariff and against the ongoing carnage in South Africa

At a memorial service for Shariff organised by the Media Workers Association of South Africa (Mwasa) yesterday, reporters vowed that violence would not stop them from exposing the truth.

International Federation of Journalists local organiser Jeanette Minnie urged journalists to refuse to cover stories in areas where their safety could not be guaranteed

"No story is worth your life," she said.

Mwasa acting president Mathatha Tsedu said it was clear Shariff had been targeted because he was a journalist.

"The gunmen in Mazibuko Hostel knew what they were doing (243)

"They could not mistake any journalist carrying a camera or a notebook or a microphone for (Joe) Slovo or (Cyril) Ramaphosa," he said.

Shariff became the first South African pressman this year to die in the line of duty when a sniper's bullet hit him in the chest on Sunday in the strife-racked East Rand township.

Some 50 journalists lost their lives last year in trouble spots around the world.

Shariff's girlfriend of six years, Madi Pearce, thanked his "very brave" colleagues who removed him from the line of fire and took him to hospital.

IFP's Transvaal leader Themba Khosa said the media were important because they covered the whole political spectrum

Nactu general secretary Cunningham Ngcukama said it was "nauseating and disgusting that it takes one 'important' life to expose" the carnage in Katlehong.

A memorial service for Shariff will be held at the Yeoville Recreation Centre on Friday at 7pm

Media watchdog launched

Political Staff

THE law establishing the Independent Media Commission (IMC) comes into effect today

The Independent Media Commission Act, which was passed last year, provides for the IMC to "ensure equitable treatment of all political parties by broadcasting services", during the election period

(243) (250) CT72/1/94
The IMC will also ensure that state-financed publications and state information services are not used to advance directly or indirectly the interests of any political party

The commission will consist of "a chairperson" and not more than six other members, to be appointed by President F W de Klerk on the advice of the Tran-

sitional Executive Council

The commission has been empowered to monitor all broadcasting services in South Africa relating to party election broadcasts and political advertisements

It will also monitor all state-financed publications and information services during the election period

Argus to buy Cape Times?

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Times Media Ltd (TML) and the Argus Group are within a few weeks of officially announcing the delinking of the two publishing groups, an exchange of newspaper titles and firm printing contracts (243)

Though no official confirmation was available, it appears the intention is for TML to sell the Cape Times, which it owns, its 45% stake in the Pretoria News and its 30% interest in Natal Newspapers to Argus. The price has yet to be determined, but it could be paid in cash or offset against a reduction in Argus's 36% shareholding in TML. TML's share capital would then be reduced by the value placed on the sale of its interests in the Cape and Pretoria newspapers.

Big shake-up

Argus would then sell its remaining shareholding in TML to parent company Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (JCI) or distribute its holding in TML to all Argus shareholders. The latter option appeared the most likely.

The manoeuvre will cut the ties between the two groups and give JCI a direct controlling stake in both companies. JCI has a 22,7% direct

To page 2

From page 1

stake in Argus and a 24% direct interest in TML. The transactions represent the biggest shake-up of the industry since the demise of the Rand Daily Mail and the reorganisation of SA Associated Newspapers, which became TML in 1985.

TML managing director Mr David Kovarsky declined to comment on the deal yesterday apart from saying that "exploratory talks" had been held with Argus. Argus chief executive Mr Doug Band was not available for comment.

News of the shake-up emerged yesterday in Finance Week, which reported that Mr Band had presented an outline of the deal to Competition Board chairman Mr Pierre Brooks last week.

It is understood that growing losses by some key Argus newspapers and concern about future government policy on cross-ownership in the media have spurred the strategy.

Cape Times editor Mr Koos Viviers said last night "The talks that are taking place are obviously of particular concern to the Cape Times and its staff. We have always prided ourselves on our editorial independence and will want to see the implications for this in any deal."

"I have been told by David Kovarsky that the interests of Cape Times staff will be safeguarded in negotiations, and we will be at pains to ensure that this happens. However, until we have a full statement it is impossible to comment in detail and we will be pressing both TML and Argus for an announcement."

**Last edition of
Vrye Weekblad
on February 2**

ARG 17/1/94

JOHANNESBURG. — Vrye Weekblad editor Max du Preez said today that the last issue of the newspaper will be on February 2.

He said staff decided last week that the absence of "enthusiastic" advertising and the continuing costs of judicial proceedings against the publication would have meant further cuts in editorial expenses which would have undermined the quality of journalism. (243)

"If there is still room for a mediocre, boring publication in the Afrikaans media market, it will not be Vrye Weekblad," Mr Du Preez said.

He said the last edition of the newspaper would be a special commemorative one which would also contain final proof that the Appeal Court had made "the biggest blunder in recent legal history with their finding in the Lothar Neethling defamation case". — Sapa.

Weekblad to close next month

Star 18/1/94

BY MICHAEL SPARKS

After more than five years of publishing the viewpoint of progressive Afrikaners, court judgments and a shortage of money have forced Vrye Weekblad to close from February 2, editor Max du Preez said yesterday.

Foremost among the problems faced by the newspaper was a R1.5 million defamation suit brought against it and the Weekly Mail by former police forensics chief Lieutenant-General Lothar Neethling (243)

The papers published stories in 1989 linking Neethling to death squad activities by alleging he provided poisons and knockout drops to former police captain Dirk Coetzee.

"Our closure will leave a vacuum, but we played an interesting role. My one regret is not being part of the election coverage," he said.

Controversial Vrye Weekblad to close

Political Staff

VRYE WEEKBLAD, the newspaper which first published statements by ex-Captain Dirk Coetzee about alleged police involvement in hit squads and about the controversial Vlakplaas base, is to close down.

Launched as part of the "alternative press", Vrye Weekblad was banned under the emergency regulations and was subjected to a number of court actions against it.

The newspaper, which appeared fortnightly last year in a magazine format, will close after the publication of its February 2 issue, its editor, Mr Max du Preez, said yesterday.

He said staff had decided last week that the absence of "enthusiastic" advertising support and the continuing costs of judicial proceedings against the publication would have meant further cuts in editorial expenses. These would have undermined the quality of journalism.

(243) C118/11/94

Future of the Sunday Star in the balance

BIDON 19/11/94
AMANDA VERMEULEN

THE future of the loss-making Sunday Star is expected to be disclosed today when the newspaper's GM, Graeme King, addresses a special staff meeting. (243)

According to the newspaper's employees, there was little chance that publication would continue for longer than a few more issues. There had been discussions on the future of staff members for several weeks.

While redundancy levels have yet to be decided, key Sunday Star employees will be offered positions on the Star, the newspaper's sister daily.

Argus Holdings CE Doug Band said yesterday no decision on closure had been taken yet but he hoped to be able to clarify the paper's position today.

Argus Newspapers CE John Featherstone told the newspaper's staff yesterday that management was reviewing all options.

Last week the Competition Board rejected proposals for separating the Argus and Times Media Ltd, a move that would have involved the transfer of TML's interests in the Cape Times, Natal Newspapers and Pretoria News to Argus. A parallel development was to have been the closure of the Sunday Star, although this was not related to the separation of the two newspaper groups.

Electoral court men approved

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. —
The TEC has approved appointments to the special electoral court and to the independent media commission.

The court will hear appeals from political parties, groups or individuals concerning TEC decisions

Mr Justice I Mahomed of the Transvaal and advocate Mr Jan Heunis of the Cape Bar were appointed by the TEC while Judges J W Smalberger, J M Didcott and P J van der Walt were Judge President appointees to the court

The Independent Media Commission will be chaired by Judge J Tregrove and comprises Namane Magua, Raymond Louw, Willem de Klerk, Jenny Malan, Zubeida Jaffer and Libby Lloyd.

An interim party liaison committee was also established yesterday

Sunday Star to close

Star 20/1/94

BY SVEN LUNSCHÉ

The Sunday Star will appear for the last time this weekend.

After months of speculation, the Argus Newspapers company said yesterday that the Sunday Star, which was launched in 1984, would suspend circulation after the January 23 issue. (243)

The closure of the Sunday Star, a sister newspaper of The Star, follows hard on the heels of a similar announcement by the independent Afrikaans weekly Vrye Weekblad.

The closures have been described by a range of media and political groupings as a blow to the diversity of media opinions in South Africa.

Addressing a packed and emotional staff meeting, Argus Newspapers chairman Doug Band said large losses by the

Sunday Star and an overtraded Sunday market had necessitated the closure.

Since 1987 the Sunday Star's losses had amounted to R22,4 million. More than half of these losses — R12,6 million — occurred after the paper was relaunched in May 1992.

The Star's editor-in-chief Richard Steyn added that while the Sunday Star had achieved most of its circulation targets, it had not attracted sufficient advertising support.

Steyn and Band announced that some sections of the Sunday Star would be incorporated with the Saturday Star into a new weekend paper, the Weekend Star, to appear on Saturdays.

Band said the Argus had not yet ruled out selling the Sunday Star to a third party, rumoured to be Caxton, but in-

dustry sources doubted that this move would succeed.

While Steyn indicated that many of the journalists would be placed with the Weekend Star and daily Star, it is feared that about a third of the 32 journalists could be laid off.

David Hazelhurst, editor of the Sunday Star, said he had hoped that Argus management could have had a further look at the newspaper's cost structure before closing it. He said the newspaper "was a truly independent voice in the Sunday market".

Many analysts have attributed the losses of the Sunday Star to the failure of the paper to make serious inroads into the circulation of the rival Sunday Times.

At the same time the entire industry has been faced

► To Page 3

Closure of newspaper

regretted

Star 20/1/94

◀ From Page 1

with poor advertising revenues.

Describing the closure as a tragedy, Campaign for Open Media chairman Raymond Louw said the Sunday Star "did not appear to have a strategy to tackle the dominance of the Sunday Times" (243)

Dave Kovarsky, managing director of TML, publisher of the Sunday Times, said he regretted the loss of the Sunday Star but described the paper as a "product that lacked direction".

Sunday Times editor Ken Owen said it was always sad when a newspaper had to close.

The two media trade unions, the Media Workers' Association (Mwasa) and the SA Union of Journalists (SAUJ), were highly critical of the decision.

"This is not the time to close another newspaper. As political opportunities open up for us as journalists, it seems that dark commercial clouds are gathering," Mwasa's acting president Mathatha Tsedu commented.

Yvonne Grimbeek, president of the SAUJ, said the closure of two newspapers in one week highlighted the need for a broader spectrum of media opinions in South Africa.

This was echoed by the ANC's spokesman Carl Niehaus, who reiterated the call for a more diversified ownership structure of the newspaper market.

The Democratic Party's media spokesman, Peter Soal, said it was unfortunate that Argus could not find a way of keeping the Sunday Star going.

Sunday Star closes

Sowetan

20/11/94

THE *Sunday Star* is to close after nine years with its final edition this weekend.

The *Star* plans to rationalise its two weekend products — the *Saturday Star* and *Sunday Star* — into the new *Weekend Star* which will appear on Saturdays

(243)
In announcing the decision, Argus Newspapers chairman Mr Doug Band said yesterday the continuing losses incurred by the *Sunday Star* and an overtraded Sunday market necessitated a thorough revision of strategy

He said the proposal to rationalise the two newspapers would inevitably mean the loss of some jobs, which was deeply regretted in view of the dedicated efforts of editorial and other staff involved

Band said the possibility of selling the publication, with the object of protecting jobs, had

been under discussion and had not yet been exhausted

“After more than nine years of Sunday publication, we have concluded that our efforts would be better focused on our daily and Saturday publications. Recent experience overseas has demonstrated a marked swing to Saturday readership.

“We believe that this trend will be paralleled in South Africa, and that we can exploit the inherent strength of the *Saturday Star* to a much greater extent,” Band said

He said design expert Mario Garcia was being retained to help plan the new paper

In an emotional speech to a packed auditorium and tearful staffers, *Sunday Star* editor Mr Dave Hazelhurst said he had not lost faith in the concept of the paper — Sapa

Sunday Star to close: R35m lost

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The Sunday Star would publish its last edition this weekend, The Star editor-in-chief Mr Richard Steyn said yesterday

The paper had failed to achieve viable readership and advertising base in a market dominated by Times Media Ltd's Sunday Times. Attempts to relaunch it as a tabloid 20 months ago failed

CT 20/11/94
The paper had lost R22,4 million since 1987 and R12,6m since its relaunch (243)

TML managing director Mr David Kovarsky said the "regrettable" closure demonstrated a lack of direction

The circulation of other Argus Sunday papers, including the Weekend Argus, had declined against the growth in circulation of the Sunday Times

DP calls for 'fearless' watch

Political Staff

THE appointment of the Independent Media Commission (IMC) was welcome because the SABC was becoming a tool of the ANC, the Democratic Party's media spokesman, Mr Peter Soal, said yesterday

He said SABC broadcasts of an ANC "propaganda" film on Sundays continued "in spite of many

CT 20/1/94
protests", and asked whether the SABC would broadcast similar programmes explaining the history of other parties

For many years the SABC was controlled by the NP and the DP complained about the lack of political impartiality

"It would appear the party apparatchiks at the corporation have simply switched allegiance from the NP to the ANC and

~~ZED~~ (243)
happily continue their activities serving their new masters," Mr Soal said in a statement

He urged the IMC to play its watchdog role fearlessly and without bias

The chairperson of the SABC board was a member of the ANC and she should resign from the board or from the ANC, Mr Soal said

Strike may cost Naspers 'millions' ~~182~~

STRIKING workers occupying Nasionale Pers printing works in the city were holding up production of 1,2 million magazines worth millions of rands ~~243~~

This was said yesterday by Mr Peter Maynard, general manager of the plant in Buitengracht Street. The workers had threatened to damage equipment worth millions of rands if they were evicted, he claimed ~~ET 211194~~

Mr Maynard said that production runs of *You* and *Huisgenoot* magazine were "critically" affected along with the printing of other publications

The Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Worker's Union, which represents the striking workers, could not be reached last night for comment, but said in an earlier statement the strike was legal.

Workers were demanding a R55 increase on the lowest weekly wage of R225, against a company offer of 10%. Workers also wanted more time for general meetings

Goodbye to newspaper that

took risks

THE decision to close the Sunday Star was a difficult one, based on commercial reasons. But its bold layout and design will have spin-offs for other Argus papers, reports MANDY JEAN WOODS.

243

THE Star's editor-in-chief Richard Steyn has described statements from Times Media Ltd (TML) that the Sunday Star had lacked direction as "nonsense". From the outset, the Sunday tabloid had had a very clear direction, he said.

Severely strained finances, spurred by the recession and competition from the electronic media, were the main reasons for the closure of the newspaper after nine years.

Steyn said the Sunday Star had lost R22,4 million since 1987 and R12,6 million since its relaunch 18 months ago.

"I feel deep sadness that the Sunday Star has not survived the recession. Under (editor) David Hazelhurst, the tabloid Sunday struck out in a new direction and had reached new audiences for The Star.

"We knew we were taking a risk with the new product, but we wanted to experiment with a tabloid, to innovate, to break new ground in graphics and design," Steyn said. Circulation had improved, but the necessary advertising support was not there.

From a technical point of view, the Sunday Star venture has benefited not only the Argus Group, but South African journalism generally. And the new techniques we have pioneered will be put to good use in the daily and forthcoming Weekend Star."

Argus chairman Doug Band told Star staffers this week at a special meeting that since the advent of television, the newspaper market had become a tough business, and the brutal realities are that there will be no let-up".

It was his view, Band said, that the nine-year experience of publishing the Sunday Star had proved conclusively that "there is no viable market for Sunday Star. The woes of the Independent Newspaper Group in the UK closely parallel our situation and point to the fact that new newspaper start-ups are a perilous business option in the late 20th century."

The closure of the Sunday Star will leave the Sunday Times, with the country's largest Sunday circulation of more than 500 000, as the dominating player in the Sunday market. Other Sunday newspapers are City Press, Weekend Argus, Sunday Tribune, Sunday Nation and Rapport.

Band said the closing of the Sunday Star was not linked to discussions being held currently with TML for the restructuring of the two publishing groups. "It seems to me self-evident that in many ways an ongoing Sunday Star, which has proved itself to be no threat to the Sunday Times, was in fact a rather comfortable buffer for the Sunday Times.

Cessation of the Sunday Star publishing just may encourage a new competitor to enter the fray, with all the unknown threats that that may pose to TML," Band said.

News that Vrye Weekblad would be publishing its last edition on February 2 was also greeted with dismay. Editor Max du Preez blamed lack of advertising support and heavy legal costs for the closure.

'Press has vital election role'

CP 22/1/94 Political Staff (243)

THE press and electronic media had a vital role to play in the holding of a free and fair election, the Goldstone Commission said yesterday

The commission asked all parties "to take active and constructive steps" to help journalists to fulfil their duties safely

The comments were made in

the commission's report on the shooting in which photographer Mr Abdul Shariff died and two SABC journalists were wounded in Katlehong on January 9

In a submission, the SA Union of Journalists said journalists' fear could block information, with serious implications for the free flow of information

The SAUJ also urged the commission to recommend that pro-

TECTIVE clothing and equipment be made available to journalists and that the public should be encouraged to report information on attacks on journalists

The commission said it had insufficient information to support a recommendation that protective equipment be provided for journalists. It asked interested parties to make submissions on journalists' safety

Mediator called in to end press pay dispute

243

153

CT 22/1/94

A MEDIATOR was called in yesterday in a bid to defuse a pay dispute at Nasionale Tydskrifte which has threatened production of the country's two biggest-circulating magazines.

About 200 workers have occupied the plant in the city centre since Wednesday, including a key graphics-production section, a Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers' Union spokesman said yesterday.

Nasionale Tydskrifte chief executive Mr Salie de Swardt said a Supreme Court judge had declared

the occupation unlawful in an order against the strikers on Thursday night.

He said production of *You and Huisgenoot*, which together had a weekly circulation of 850 000 copies, had been jeopardised by the strike.

Workers had timed their action to coincide with production of these publications and *Landbou Weekblad*, he said.

The union spokesman confirmed that strikers were "highly emotional".

Mr De Swardt said the company is amenable to mediation — Sapa

Mediators for strike at Nasionale Tydskrifte

SHARON SOROUR

Weekend Argus Reporter

MEDIATORS have been called in to resolve the wage strike by hundreds of Nasionale Tydskrifte employees which has stopped the presses and delayed the production of several magazines at a cost of R1,4 million

A total of 271 of the 750-strong workforce went on strike on Wednesday.

The workers are members of the Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers' Union (Ppwawu), who have refused to accept a 10 percent weekly wage increase

According to Ppwawu spokesman Shahied Mahomed, the situation was "delicate" and a mediator of the Independent Mediation Service of SA had been called in

He said the union was available on a 24-hour basis to hold talks with the management, but was not prepared to accept an offer of 10 percent as Nasionale Tydskrifte had shown "massive profits" over the past three years.

A 10 percent increase did not amount to much, especially for workers on the lower grades who earned R225 a week

Workers were demanding a R55-a-week increase.

Nasionale Tydskrifte obtained a temporary interdict in the Supreme Court yesterday after strikers occupied the printing works and threatened to smash equipment with iron bars.

Production manager Barend van As said "there were a lot of workers running around and obviously we called the police", but machines were not damaged

About 40 strikers occupied and paralysed the section of the Buitengracht Street printing works where printing cylinders are made up.

Mr Van As said production had come to a standstill since the strike began on Wednesday

"We are not doing any printing at the moment and the production of You, Huisgenoot, Landbouweekblad and Sarie has been delayed," he said.

The SA Typographical Union (Satu), which represents most of the workers, accepted the pay offer last week

Ppwawu accused the management of "playing up one union against the other"

■ Satu members began partial work stoppages at Printpak on January 4 They have rejected a seven-percent weekly increase

● Delmore squatter leader slain

Plans for the safety of reporters

Sowetan 24/1/94

■ **MORE PROBLEMS** Journalists face pressure as elections get underway:

By Political Staff and Sapa

WORKSHOPS to educate people on the role of media workers are the main solution to constant attacks on media workers (243)

This emerged at a meeting between the Inkatha Freedom Party and Media Workers' Association of South Africa in Ulundi on Saturday

In addition to setting up workshops that will deal with media education, the meeting also resolved that media workers be given the same respect and protection as "Red Cross workers"

The meeting, between a delegation of Mwasa and the Central Committee of the IFP, was part of Mwasa's programme to communicate with political parties and organisations throughout the country to highlight violence and intimidation against its members, the union's acting president, Mr Mathatha Tsedu, told the meeting

Other parties have also been approached, he said

Both parties identified perceptions on the role of media workers as the major stimulus

to violence against media workers.

IFP president Mangosuthu Buthelezi said a contributing factor in the attacks on journalists was the perception that they were partial and took sides

Buthelezi said in fact many IFP supporters saw journalists as taking the side of the African National Congress

"Since the unbanning of the ANC, hundreds of IFP leaders and supporters have been decimated by Umkhonto we Sizwe cadres intent on wiping our organisation from the face of the earth

"But instead of there being widespread coverage of this genocide, there has been deathly silence on the part of the Press," he said.

He said the IFP however condemned any attack on media workers and would never justify such acts, even if conducted by their own members

Tsedu projected that media workers would face more problems as parties start contesting elections

He emphasised that media workers had a right to work without undue hindrance, especially in the coming months of high political activity

Media workers, IFP to hold Press workshops

ARG 24/1/94

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN — A series of workshops will be held between the Inkatha Freedom Party and the Media Workers' Association of South Africa to discuss the role of the media

This follows a 90-minute meeting between about 60 members of the IFP's central committee and a Mwasas delegation of 12 in Ulundi at the weekend

In a joint statement the IFP and Mwasas said they had openly and frankly discussed the increasing number of attacks on media workers

They decided to hold workshops "that will deal with mass media education and the role of media workers"

The statement said it was suggested that political parties act as conduits between media workers and communities.

Media workers should be given the same respect and protection as Red Cross Workers, the two sides said.

The meeting was part of Mwasas's programme to meet various political parties and organisations "to highlight violence and intimidation against its members"

222 243

New paper expected

JOHN DLUDLU

A NEW, independently owned daily newspaper was likely to be launched before the elections, sources close to the ANC said yesterday. *BIDAY 25/11/93*

However, the ANC, which was facilitating the formation of the newspaper, was cautious when approached for comment. Spokesman Carl Niehaus said the pre-election deadline for establishing it "may or may not happen."

"We don't want to be seen to be controlling the newspaper. Our involvement is a form of criticism of the existing situation, where ownership of the print media is highly concentrated. We want to ensure the diversity of media ownership and to have as many opinions as possible represented in the media." *(243)*

He would not be drawn on financial details of the plan, apart from saying there were independent people working on it.

But market talk was that the newspaper could be launched next month.

This comes amid speculation that the closure of the Argus-owned Sunday Star might dampen the plans to launch the newspaper.

The departure of Sunday Nation editor Zwelakhe Sisulu to the SABC was also seen as an indication that the plans for a new paper might have been put on hold. Sisulu had been tipped to edit the new paper.

South to appeal against 'gag'

SOUTH is to appeal against a gag order imposed by the Supreme Court preventing the newspaper from printing an article about Plessey-Tellumat.

Passing judgement last month, Mr Justice Conradie confirmed a final interdict, saying the article was defamatory and there was no justification in printing it.

He said the article carried unfair comments by the Metal and Electrical Workers' Union (Mewusa) to the effect that Plessey did not take sexual harassment seriously.

The judge recounted undisputed facts of how senior Plessey execu-

tive Mr Kevn Baynham had made "blatant sexual advances" to a female employee, including "putting his hand under the covers and feeling her leg", as well as pulling the top off another woman.

A disciplinary hearing had produced evidence of other incidents of sexual harassment by Baynham. But the judge said it was unfair for Mewusa to say that by retaining the services of Baynham, Plessey had not treated sexual harassment seriously enough.

The claim was unfair because the article did not explain that Baynham had been demoted, transferred and was no longer supervising any staff.

"A supervisor who cannot influence a worker's prospects is a molester, not a sexual harasser," said Justice Conradie.

He rejected Plessey women workers quoted in the article who said Baynham should have been fired and who expressed fears because he had not been.

The presence of a known offender could "not give rise to a fear of sexual harassment if the man is not in a position over them," said the judge.

The women quoted in SOUTH's intended article should have been forthcoming about how Baynham's presence at Plessey could influence their destiny

SOUTH 2111 - 251194
 "Does Baynham prowl the shop floor and leap at female members as they go by? Is he known to have made lewd remarks since his demotion? Has he patted an underling's rump?" (243)

Judge Conradie said Mewusa had made unfair comments about racial discrimination in Plessey's treatment of disciplinary cases

"The implication is that blacks are treated less leniently (than Baynham who was kept on at the company), but there are no facts"

Commenting on the judgement, SOUTH's former editor Guy Berger said the newspaper had asked Plessey to respond to Mewusa's points. Instead, the

company had sought to suppress rather than rebut union criticism.

"It is a most serious matter, especially at this stage of our history, that the judge has ordered that we cannot publish a topical article about a dispute between a trade union and a company."

"The dispute which the article would have aired concerned allegations of sexual harassment and racism — matters that are far from the frivolous.

"The effect of the judgement is to narrow the scope of the press to report controversial and potentially defamatory allegations about matters of public interest. It is imperative that we win the appeal"

Magazine deliveries late

THOUSANDS of readers will be without the latest editions of Huisgenoot and You magazines after Paper, Printing and Allied Workers Union members occupied the building housing Nasionale Tydskrifte's printing presses. ~~152~~ (243)

Production in the city has been paralysed for six days following a wage dispute

A union spokesman said the build-

ing was occupied because of management's reluctance to meet workers' demands

The publisher's general secretary, Mr Robert Crowther, could not say for how long production would be stopped or when delivery of the magazines would resume

Delivery of more than 1,5 million magazines, including Sarie, Cosmopolitan and Fair Lady, has been affected. — Sapa

CT 25/1/94

Blacks buy Sowetan

Star 26/1/94

■ BY SVEN LUNSCHÉ

A group of prominent black businessmen, headed by Dr Nthatho Motlana, has acquired control of the country's largest daily newspaper, The Sowetan, from the Argus Group.

The deal places control of an influential newspaper with the black business sector just three months before the April elections. (243) (1994)

The Argus Group said in a statement yesterday it had agreed in principle to relinquish control of the Sowetan to the Prosper Africa Group, whose directors include Motlana, Dr Sam Motsuenyane, Franklin Sonn and Dr Enos

Mabuza.

All four directors are members, but not office bearers, of the ANC. Motlana stressed however that the Sowetan's editorial independence would adhere to the paper's Editorial Charter. Editor Aggrey Klaaste and senior management will retain their posts, he added.

The Argus Group has rejected offers by the ANC to acquire the Sowetan, in line with its guidelines that a potential buyer guarantee the editorial independence and commercial viability of its newspapers.

Media Workers Association of SA acting president, Mathatha Tsedu, who is also political editor of the paper, said:

"As a union we welcome black business participation in the paper, but there is some concern about where the paper will move politically."

Argus chief executive Doug Band described the move as a commercial venture that would "empower black business and place control of the Sowetan in black community hands".

In terms of the deal, a complicated pyramid structure will leave Argus with about 43 percent of a newly formed company that owns the Sowetan. Prosper Africa will control 52 percent and five percent will be held by staff.

► Plan afoot to expand Sowetan - Page 16

Argus to sell Sowetan to black group

AMANDA VERMEULEN

THE Argus Group has agreed in principle to relinquish control of its Sowetan daily newspaper in a partnership arrangement with a black business venture, the Prosper Africa Group. *B/DON 26/1/94*

The paper will be acquired by New Africa Publishers, a newly incorporated subsidiary of Prosper Africa, as a first step towards building an independent black communications group. *(243) (22)*

Prosper Africa's nominee chairman Ntatho Motlana said the group was committed to spreading equity to the man in the street and ensuring that the newspaper "remains commercially driven". Its editorial independence would not be affected and there was backing for an editorial charter. Editor Aggrey Klaaste and GM Rory Wilson would retain their posts.

Motlana said the paper would need Argus's help to meet growth objectives. Argus would continue providing services in terms of a five-year support agreement.

"It would be commercial suicide for us to try to go it alone," he said. *(243)*

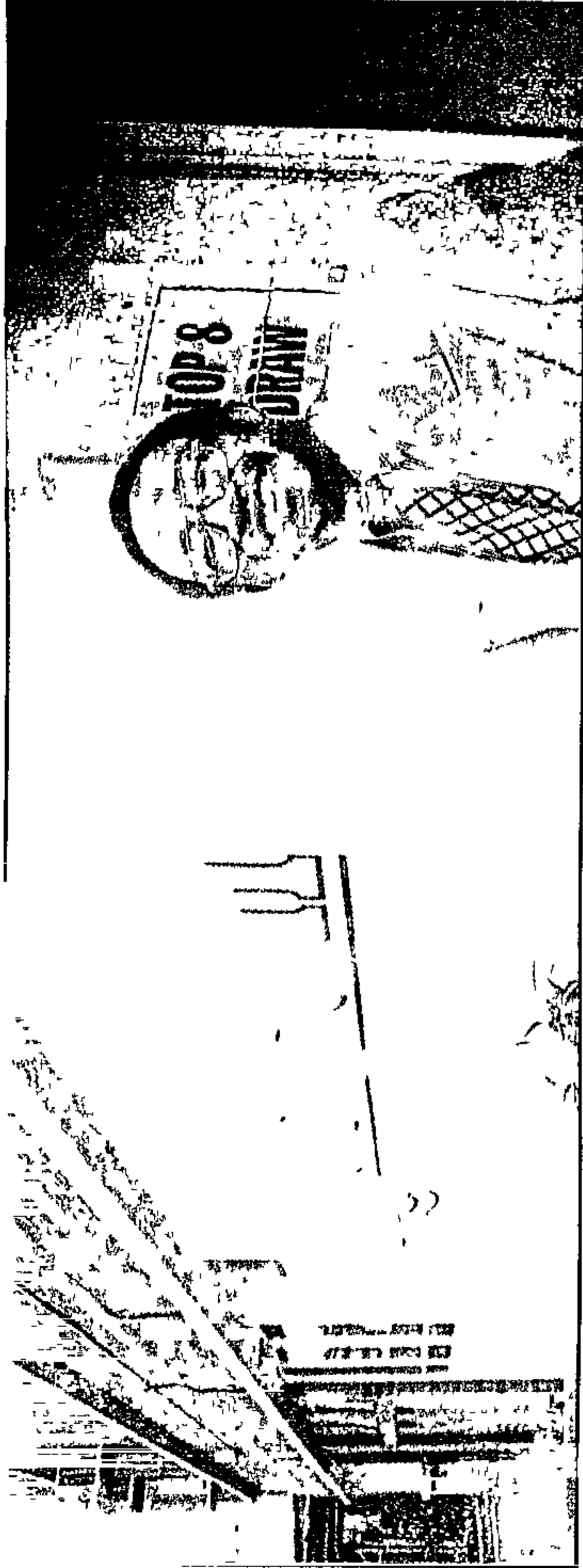
But New Africa Publishers was looking to establish "a black communications empire" by diversifying into other media, including magazines, radio and television. It planned to expand the Sowetan's circulation in Natal and the Cape.

"For too long ownership of the media has been concentrated in the hands of two groups. We think it is time for a change."

Argus will acquire a 30% stake in Prosper Group subsidiary New Africa Communications, which will hold a 75.1% stake in New Africa Publishers, as well as the Prosper Group's stake in the MTN cellular telephone business. Argus will own a 19.9% stake in New Africa Publishers. With its indirect share via New Africa Communications, Argus' attributable interest in New Africa Publishers will be about 43%.

Argus Holdings CE Doug Band said the agreement would increase the company's interest in electronic communications and cut its exposure to print media.

Prosper Africa's directors include Sam Motsuenyane, Franklin Sonn, Paul Gama and Enos Mabuza.



Sowetan has effectively been taken over by a black-led business group. Editor Aggrey Klaaste is pleased about future prospects of the newspaper.

Blacks buy Sowetan

Sowetan 26/1/94

By Mzimkulu Malunga

A BLACK business organisation is buying a majority stake in Sowetan.

In the new ownership structure Sowetan will be owned by a company called New Africa Publishers (NAP) — controlled by a communications group which is in turn owned by a black concern, Prosper Africa.

Prosper Africa is committed to spreading equity to the man in the street rather than allowing control of Sowetan to rest in the hands of a few people, says Prosper Africa's chairman Dr Nthato Motlana.

This acquisition is viewed as the first step in the construction of a black-led communications empire.

Argus Newspapers chairman Mr Doug Band says the company is not deserting Sowetan. Instead the new deal marks the formation of a new "unbeatable team". In addition to a 30 percent stake which Argus will hold in the communications group — New Africa Communications — that owns NAP, the company will also have a direct shareholding of 19.9 percent in NAP — the sole owner of the Sowetan.

Argus will retain an effective 43 percent stake in Sowetan.

Players on both sides of the deal are tightlipped about the amount of money involved. But last year when Argus announced plans to unbundle, the Sowetan was valued at about R60 million.

Band says the deal is expected to be operational within the next few weeks during which a further announcement will be made. Sowetan's staff will own five percent of NAP shares and a seat on the board of directors of that company.

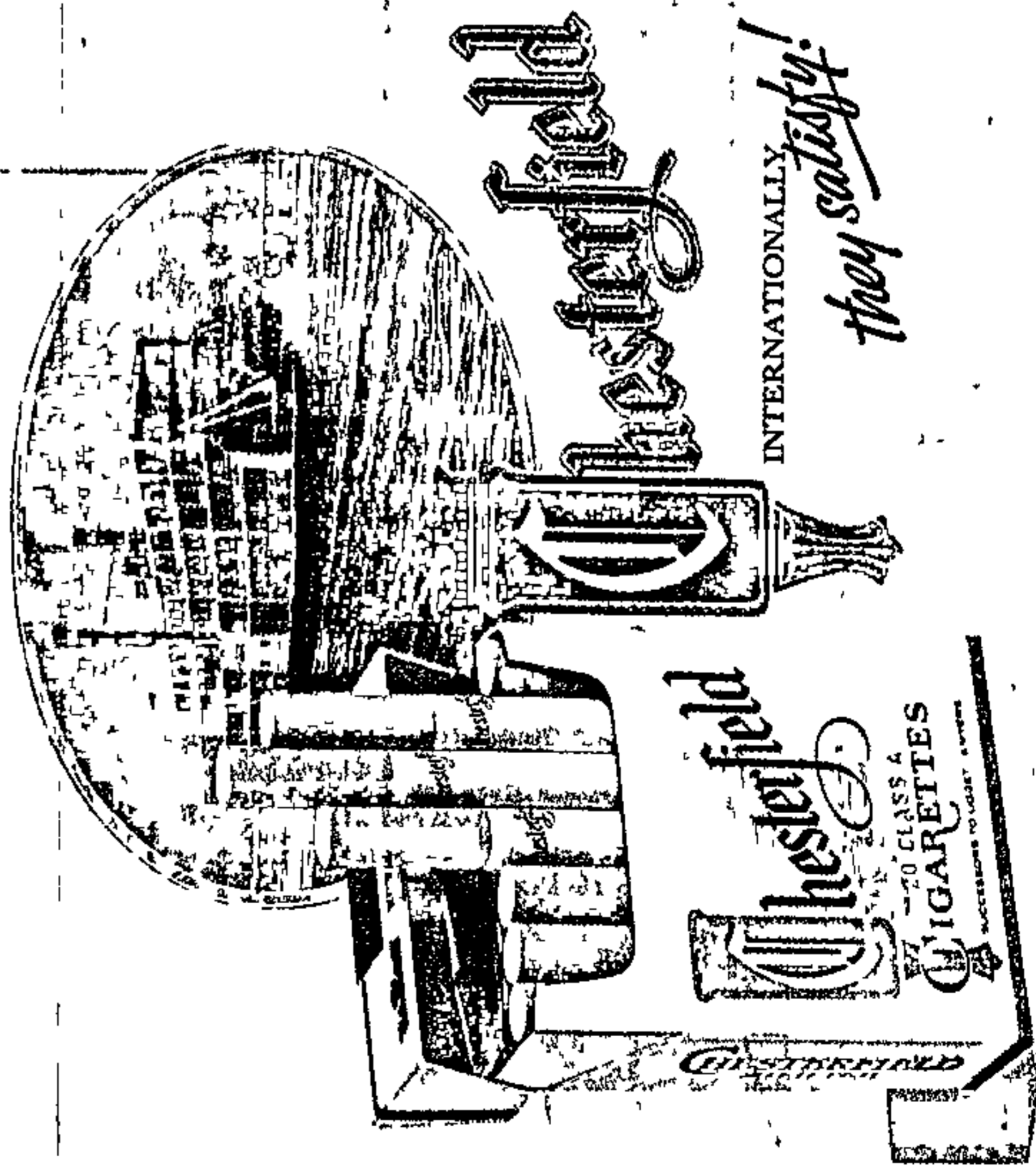
Editor Mr Aggrey Klaaste and general manager Mr Rory Wilson will also serve on NAP's board.

Since Prosper Africa holds the largest share in the company which owns Sowetan, Motlana has been nominated to become the first chairman of NAP.

● In another separate development a consortium of black business people is believed to be on the verge of acquiring a controlling stake in an insurance company, African Life, together with its subsidiary companies and Enterprise magazine.

The consortium is led by a long-serving Anglo-American manager Mr Don Ncube.

CLASSIC AMERICAN TASTE



From the successors to Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company, Durham, North Carolina, U.S.A.
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF TOBACCO TRADITION

Made in South Africa

CS 1752U

Magazine presses running after end to printing strike

ARLT 26/11/94

(243)

(7/2)

SHARON SOROUR, Labour Reporter

THE presses at Nasionale Tydskrifte are up and running after marathon mediation at the weekend ended the crippling strike which cost the company more than R1,4-million and delayed production of several magazines

A total of 41 hours of intense mediation by two mediators of the Independent Mediation Service of SA, Johann Maree and Jan Theron, brought an end to bitter conflict which had led workers to occupy the printing works, and threaten to damage expensive machines

The company in turn obtained a temporary court order declaring the occupation unlawful

About 270 of the 750-strong workforce, members of the Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers' Union (Ppwawu) went on a wage strike on Wednesday, shutting down the presses

Company production manager Bar-end van As said workers returned to work on Monday about 7.30pm, after an agreement had been signed with the union

In terms of the agreement workers would get an increase of R40 a week or 10 percent, whichever was greater, Mr Van As said. A shift system would start operating at the printing works

Mr Van As said that although the company retained the right to discipline workers, it was not on a "witch hunt" and would only do so "where necessary"

Mr Maree said that in terms of the mediation both sides would agree on an independent chairman to convene the disciplinary hearings

Mr Van As said *You* and *Huisgenoot* magazines had had to be printed elsewhere and were available only on Monday, one day later than usual. They would be two to three days late in more remote areas

Some would also probably be late because the strike began in the middle of production

Mediators were called in on Thursday night and "intense" dual mediation began on Friday at 1pm and "except for two sleeping breaks, we carried on non-stop until 7.30pm on Monday" said mediator Johann Maree

Star 27/11/94

Staffers to be axed after closure of Sunday Star

STAFF REPORTER

Several journalists from the Sunday Star and The Star will be retrenched as a result of the closure of the Sunday newspaper.

The Star's general manager, Graeme King, told the Southern African Union of Journalists (SAUJ) at a meeting yesterday that most of the 35 journalists at the Sunday Star had been placed with other newspapers in the Argus group.

Although he told the journalists how many were to be retrenched, he requested that the number be kept confidential.

Unconfirmed reports put the number at about 10.

Last weekend saw the final edition of the Sunday Star.

King said the affected staff members would be informed of

their retrenchment as soon as possible by their respective editors.

(243)
Management was offering voluntary retrenchments, at management's discretion, to staff members, he said.

The retrenchment package, which King said was standard for the industry, was an effective two months' notice period beginning from February 1 and one week's payment for every year's service.

The SAUJ said it believed that management had not consulted the union properly when announcing the closure of the Sunday Star and the subsequent retrenchment of staff.

Union organiser Marika Sboros said: "We have to take the package offer back to members, but I expect they will reject it as a slap in the face."

Argus papers to cut up to 10 workers

AMANDA VERMEULEN

UP TO 10 newspaper employees from The Star and the Sunday Star would lose their jobs following the Sunday Star closure announced by Argus management last week, SA Union of Journalists representatives said last night. BIDON 27/11/94

At a meeting with union representatives yesterday, management said the staffers affected would be informed today.

Union branch co-ordinator Marika Sboros said the retrenchment numbers were not definite and management and the union were still negotiating over criteria and packages. (S) (243)

She said union lawyers had advised members that management's lack of meaningful consultation with employees over the closure constituted unfair labour practice. "The union believes this has prejudiced the continued employment of members, therefore we want a more favourable retrenchment package."

Argus effectively offered two months' notice and one week's salary for each year of employment. Sboros said members would be consulted, but it was anticipated they would reject the offer out of hand.

The union believed bad management was responsible for the closure in the light of the paper's R22,4m loss since 1987.

Star GM Graeme King was unavailable for comment.

ANC's planned daily 'on track'

JOHN DLUDLU

THE ANC had approached three local printers concerning the printing of its planned independent daily newspaper, ANC information chief Pallo Jordan said yesterday.

Investors in the project were evaluating the printers' offer. (243)

Jordan was optimistic the pre-April 27 launch deadline would be met but refused to comment on speculation that it would be next month.

He said fundraising for the venture had reached an "advanced stage".

Prospective investors included foreign governments, Nigerian newspaper owner Chief Abiola, local companies and London-based Lonrho CE Tiny Rowland. B/Dan

The ANC would be a minority contributor — with less than R20m — as the organisation had other priorities.

Lonrho spokesman Paul Spicer this week refused to comment on the scale of the group's involvement.

Recruitment for editorial staff began last week. London journalist Donald Telford had offered his services as an editorial consultant but no decision had been made. 27/11/94

Jordan said Sunday Nation editor Zwelakhe Sisulu, soon to take up a senior SABC position, was on the short list for editor because of his "clout and experience".

An announcement would soon be made on whether the new daily would be a greenfields project or a buy-out of an existing title, Jordan said.

It had been speculated that Sunday Nation would be used as a vehicle.

NEWSPAPER CLOSURES: In just one week, three publications announce their decision to shut up shop

Quitting – while ⁽²⁴³⁾ it'll still be missed

WM 21-27/1/94

After a long struggle against financial constraints, the feisty Vrye Weekblad is finally to close. Editor Max du Preez spoke to Anton Harber about five years of confrontation

YOU won't find Max du Preez, the ever-ebullient founder and editor of Vrye Weekblad, looking down in the mouth about this week's decision to close his five-year-old publication.

"We could have carried on for a few months and burnt up some more money. But when we discussed it, I thought about the British Anti-Apartheid Movement. They didn't know when to go. We don't want to make the same mistake.

"We want to go while people still care. In a few more months, they would have stopped caring," he said in an interview this week.

"Many people have phoned me and said it's terrible and we can't possibly close now. Individuals have offered a total of R1,5-million to keep us going. I personally have taken calls from three people each offering R200 000.

"This shows us that our timing was right. Quit while people will still miss you.

"These people are kind but it wouldn't change our basic situation. We have never had advertising support. We have a flood of legal costs. And we cater to a tiny constituency.

"We outgrew that market because of the edge we had and because we offered quality. But I am not sure we have that edge any more. Now we're just bleeding ourselves dry," he said.

Du Preez also turned down an offer to merge with his competition, Nasionale Pers *Instig* and *Die Suid Afrikaan*. On the surface, the deal was good: the new publication would be independent, edited by Du Preez and would have a good shot at creating one viable product from three struggling magazines.

The idea broke down because Naspers said it should be monthly,

and Du Preez said it was weekly or nothing. "We would be putting our masthead on something we didn't like," he said.

So nothing it is and after the final edition on February 2, Du Preez will dismantle the unconventional newsroom he had built from nothing over the past five years. He works from the Old Scout Hall in Brixton, a quaint building with the feeling of a small, rural church. The colourful posters and photographs on the walls seem to ridicule the quasi-religious building — appropriately for a magazine that has built its name on mocking Afrikaans institutions.

On the wall, hovering over the room like a religious icon, is a painting by artist Braam Kruger showing a (coloured) Joan of Arc like figure, bursting out of the burning ruins of the old South Africa wielding a copy of Vrye Weekblad in one hand and a sword in the other, a "wit wolf" snapping at her heels.

That's the original Vrye Weekblad, battling for a cause against all the odds, never mincing its words, never backing away from a fight.

So what's changed? Partly, it is a sense that their fight is over. Mostly, it is that Du Preez himself is tired.

But ask him about the publication's achievements, and he is energetic again. "Our major achievement was inside the Afrikaans constituency. Afrikaners did not ask difficult questions, they respected their leaders. Our style was confrontational, we kicked arse, we loosened up the minds of Afrikaners and helped break these attitudes. We showed them that their leaders were morally and financially corrupt.

"And we showed people that you could be part of the struggle and



Max du Preez ... Dreams of farming

PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE HILTON-BARBER

Education. You didn't have to become Anglicised.

"Before we came along, most blacks thought Afrikaners were dumb, thick-wristed boers who suppressed them. We made them see that we weren't all like that.

"With *The Weekly Mail* and *New Nation* and others, we helped push back the parameters of press freedom. When all the mainstream guys were complacent and accepted the limits, we had a role in challenging those limits.

"On a different level, we showed young Afrikaners that there was fun to be had. That there is life beyond the National Party, the NG Kerk, the Broederbond and Christian National

Education."

And what will Du Preez himself do? "I have no plans and no firm job offers.

"I am burnt out in the print media. There are no jobs for me there. I need to earn a proper salary for 18 months, until I can afford to go and run the small farm I have bought. That's been my dream from boyhood."

He picked up his small farm near Ficksburg for very little when there was drought and a spate of racial murders. "Now there's plenty of rain and no Apla," he said.

That provides ideal conditions for farming, not for alternative journalism.

Saturday, Sunday Star first to go

WM 21-27/1/94

Weekly Mail reporters

IN one week, three newspapers have done a disappearing act and dozens of journalists have been put out of work.

First to go will be the *Sunday Star* and the *Saturday Star*, which will appear for the last time this weekend. The two publications will merge into a *Weekend Star* to be published on Saturdays. About 25 redundancies are expected.

And the last edition of Afrikaans independent weekly *Vrye Weekblad* will appear on February 2, editor Max du Preez said on Tuesday. Ten journalists are out of work as a result.

Announcing the *Saturday/Sunday Star* merger, the chairman of Argus Newspapers, Doug Band, attributed the decision to "continuing *Sunday Star* losses and an overtraded Sunday market". In the PWV area, five Sunday titles compete ruthlessly for the ever-shrinking advertising cake.

The *Sunday Star* has been publishing for more than nine years and now "we have concluded that our efforts would be better focused on our daily and Saturday publications", said Band.

Argus "deeply regretted" the job losses that would result from the merger "in view of the dedicated efforts of editorial and other staff involved in the *Sunday Star*".

The demise of these publications brings to mind what has been described in the media as an ANC daily newspaper. The ANC's head of publicity and information, Pallo Jordan, was adamant this week that the newspaper would not be an ANC publication, but merely a "daily in which the ANC is going to have an interest". The ANC was "cautiously optimistic" that the newspaper will be on the streets before the April 27 elections.

It is understood that the plans took a recent nosedive when attempts to buy *The Sowetan* fell through. It is understood that agreement had been

reached that a black-controlled trust would buy a large share of *The Sowetan* and it would merge with the *Sunday Nation* to provide a daily, ANC supporting paper. By agreement between all the parties, it would be edited by Zwelakhe Sisulu.

However, at the last minute this was blocked by Argus' main shareholder, mining house JCI. Sisulu took a senior post at the SABC.

All of this comes against the background of attempts to separate the two major English language media groups, Argus and TML. It was reported that the intention was for Argus to reduce its 36 percent share in TML and for TML to sell to Argus the *Cape Times*, its 45 percent stake in *The Pretoria News* and its 30 percent interest in Natal Newspapers.

JCI would be left with a controlling interest in both groups.

The deal, however, was blocked when there was an outcry about its inadequacy in dealing with cross-ownership and lack of diversity in the English media.

DAKAWA ART & CRAFT PROJECT

Director (from April 1994)

Dakawa, a dynamic art and craft project governed by an Independent Trust, which offers training for production in WEAVING, TEXTILE PRINTING and GRAPHIC DESIGN, is looking for a Director to head its growing team of staff.

The director will:

- assume overall project management,
- be artistically and technically responsible for the quality of training and production,
- coordinate communication with funding organisations,
- represent DAKAWA at all levels and network with other organisations;
- prepare budgets and quarterly reports.

Ideally, the successful candidate should have:

- an art and craft background,
- at least 3 years managerial experience with NGOs,
- good written and spoken communication skills,
- the ability to relate to community organisations as well as government and business structures,
- good participatory management skills,
- proficiency in English.

The following would be added advantages:

- * own artistic career
- * knowledge of one or more of any of the other official languages, particularly Xhosa,
- * knowledge of and interest in Southern African Art and Crafts
- * computer skills,
- * a driver's licence

DAKAWA offers Medical insurance scheme, 13th cheque and membership of a Provident Fund. Salary negotiable.

Send written application, CV and the names of two contactable referees to the Director, Dakawa Project, P O Box 733, Grahamstown 6140
Phone (0461) 29393, Fax: (0461) 29733

Closing date for applications: 4 February 1994

VISTA UNIVERSITY

INVITATION TO SERVE ON THE COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY

Members of the public are hereby invited to submit to the University, names of national, provincial and regional institutions, organizations or bodies that would be interested in nominating persons to serve on the Council of the University.

Any institution, organization or body that has a direct interest in education in general and in university education in particular, and is involved in one or more of the following will be considered: Commerce and economics, the sciences, industry and technology, public and provincial administration, local administrative structures, teacher training, the teaching profession, the legal profession and other organizations involved with the University.

The Council of the University will consider all nominations and will then invite five institutions, organizations or bodies to nominate persons as members of the Council.

A detailed motivation outlining the interests of the Institution, organization or body in the above-mentioned matters, will be appreciated.

Direct all enquiries and submissions before 10 February 1994 to

THE REGISTRAR ADMINISTRATION
VISTA UNIVERSITY
PRIVATE BAG X634
PRETORIA
0001
Tel no (012) 322-8967
Facsimile (012) 322 0182



Freedom of speech an 'inflammable' issue

(2044)
(243)
APR 27 11 1994

LAST week President De Klerk had to abandon a meeting in a Western Transvaal township when African National Congress supporters threatened to disrupt it. Democratic Party meetings in the Peninsula have also been broken up.

In the crucial run-up to South Africa's first democratic elections, one may well ask what has happened to freedom of speech. A related issue is how far we can be expected to tolerate politically inflammatory statements or those inciting others to commit acts of violence.

Staff Reporter **DAVID YUTAR** examines the issue.

To speak his thoughts is every freeman's right, in peace and war, in council and in fight (Homer, The Iliad).

WITH three months to go before the April 27 election it is becoming painfully clear that we in South Africa have drifted far from the observance of Homer's ideal.

The Code of Conduct agreed to in terms of the National Peace Accord enjoins all political parties to "actively contribute to the creation of a climate of democratic tolerance".

Chapter 2 specifically calls on parties to "respect and give effect to the obligation to refrain from incitement to violence and hatred".

The code further prohibits the use of any "language calculated or likely to incite violence or hatred, including that directed against any political party or personality".

A far more compelling code of conduct — which supercedes the National Peace Accord code — has been written into the new Electoral Act, obliging parties participating in the election to adhere to closely defined principles of tolerance and fairness to opponents.

Furthermore — unlike the Peace Accord code — this code carries penalties ranging from fines and limits on parties' or candidates' air time on radio and television, to disqualification as contenders in the election.

For Paul Taylor, of the University of Cape Town's philosophy department, the starting point for any discussion on freedom of speech is that it is a good thing in itself.

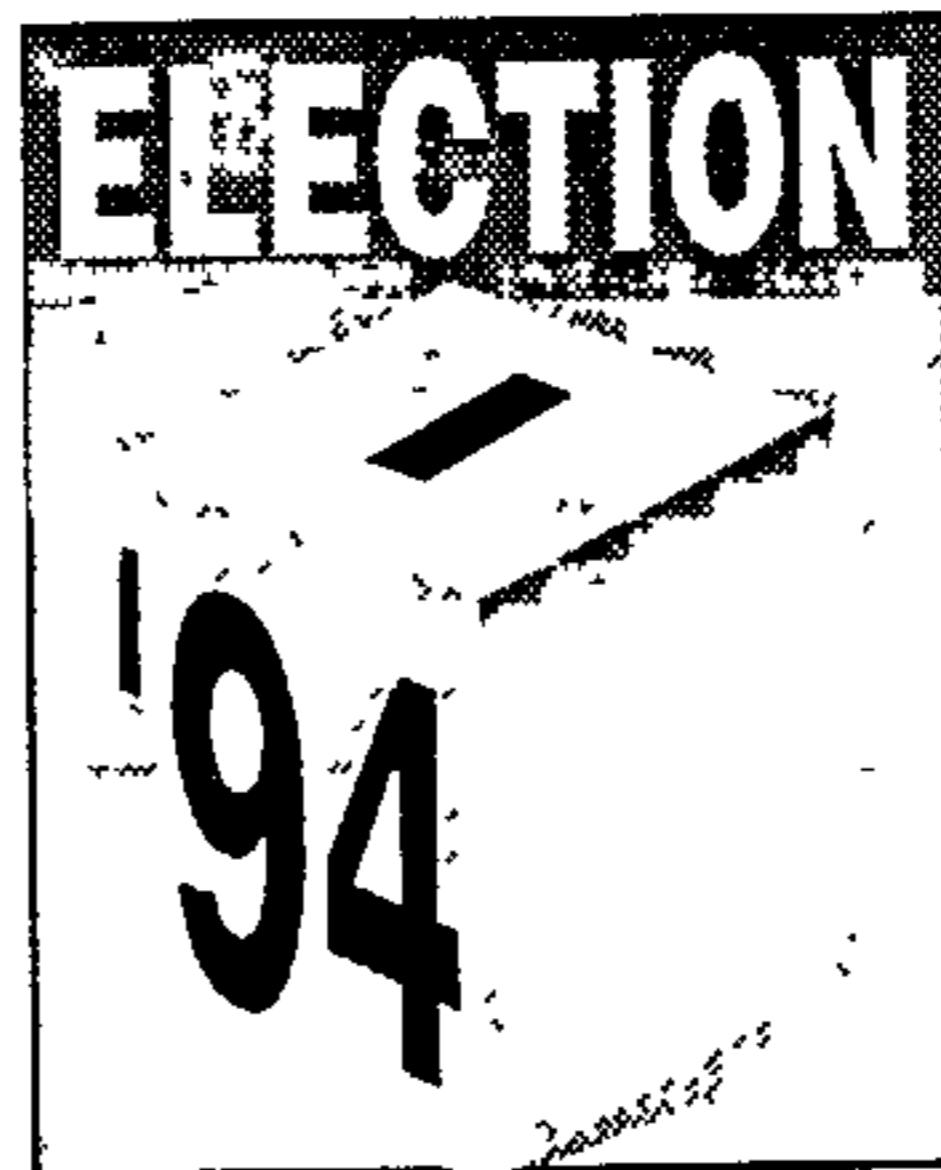
"People should be free to say what they want — *all other things being equal*. In other words, as long as this does not infringe on the rights of others or threaten them with harm."

But, he stresses, that the same principle which makes the desirability of freedom of speech self-evident, justifies curbs on that freedom.

Such exceptions are typically situations where the exercise of the freedom poses a threat of immediate harm or incites others to commit acts of violence.

"The line is hard to draw. It is usually said there must be a clear and immediate threat of violence."

He draws a distinction between the situation where the speaker incites others to violence (where a curb is



expresses a view that is merely unpopular in a given political context, with the result that others threaten him with harm.

In the latter situation, to permit the curb would "lead one down a dangerous path of erosion of freedom of speech", in Mr Taylor's view.

When political rhetoric incites violence it runs contrary to the value of freedom of speech and a restriction becomes justified, he believes.

A member of the Johannesburg bar who is an expert on media law and ethics stresses that freedom of speech, "although integral to democracy, is nowhere absolute".

"Certain categories of freedom of speech can be identified which do not fall within the usual protection. For example, when there is a threat of violence."

He points out that South Africa is no different from many Western countries where fomenting racial hostility has been criminalised by law.

"In the context of an election, freedom of speech becomes crucial.

"Citizens are being asked to exercise a fundamental choice and to do so there needs to be exposure to a plurality of ideas."

In such a situation the ability of a political party to convey its message is vital.

"But one cannot ignore the realities of the social context."

"We come from a culture of suppression and many of the problems we face today are directly traceable to that heritage.

"In an ideal world there would be no need to talk about enforcing freedom of speech, but in the context of a political culture such as ours it should come as no surprise that creating a culture conducive to freedom



NEWSPAPERS

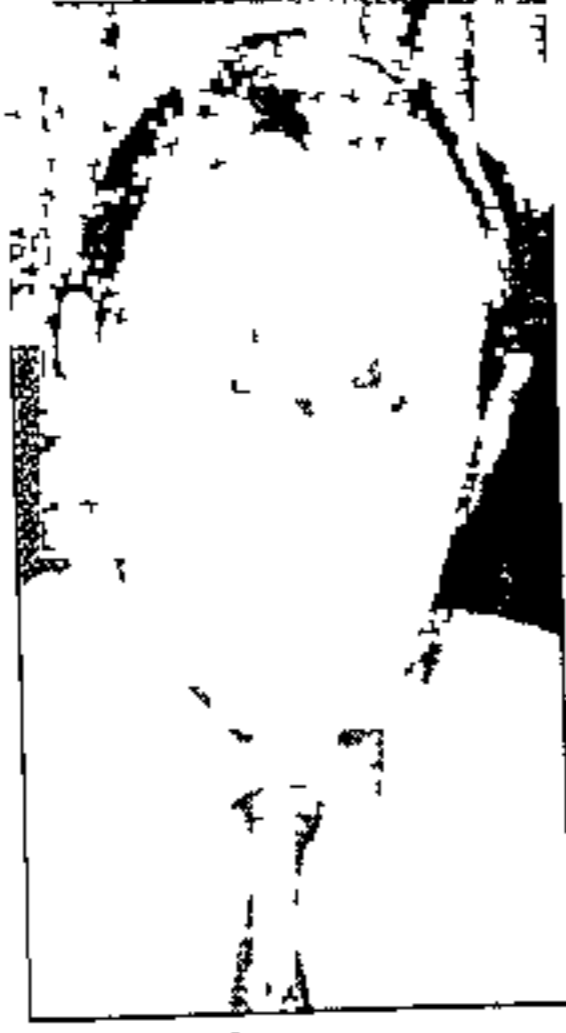
Fun 28/1/94

It's not over till it's over

Closure of the Sunday Star brings to an end yet another abortive attack on the weekend newspaper market so dominated by the *Sunday Times*. But the war is not yet over. Argus is still intent on getting a significant stake in the huge PWV weekend market, as it has done in the Cape and Natal



Garlick



Steyn

In Zone G (the Cape area) the *Sunday Times* has, for the first time, overtaken the combined readership of two editions of the *Weekend Argus* published on Saturdays and Sundays, according to the main source of reader information, the All-Media & Product Survey, Amps, in Natal, the *Sunday*

TEST OF POWER

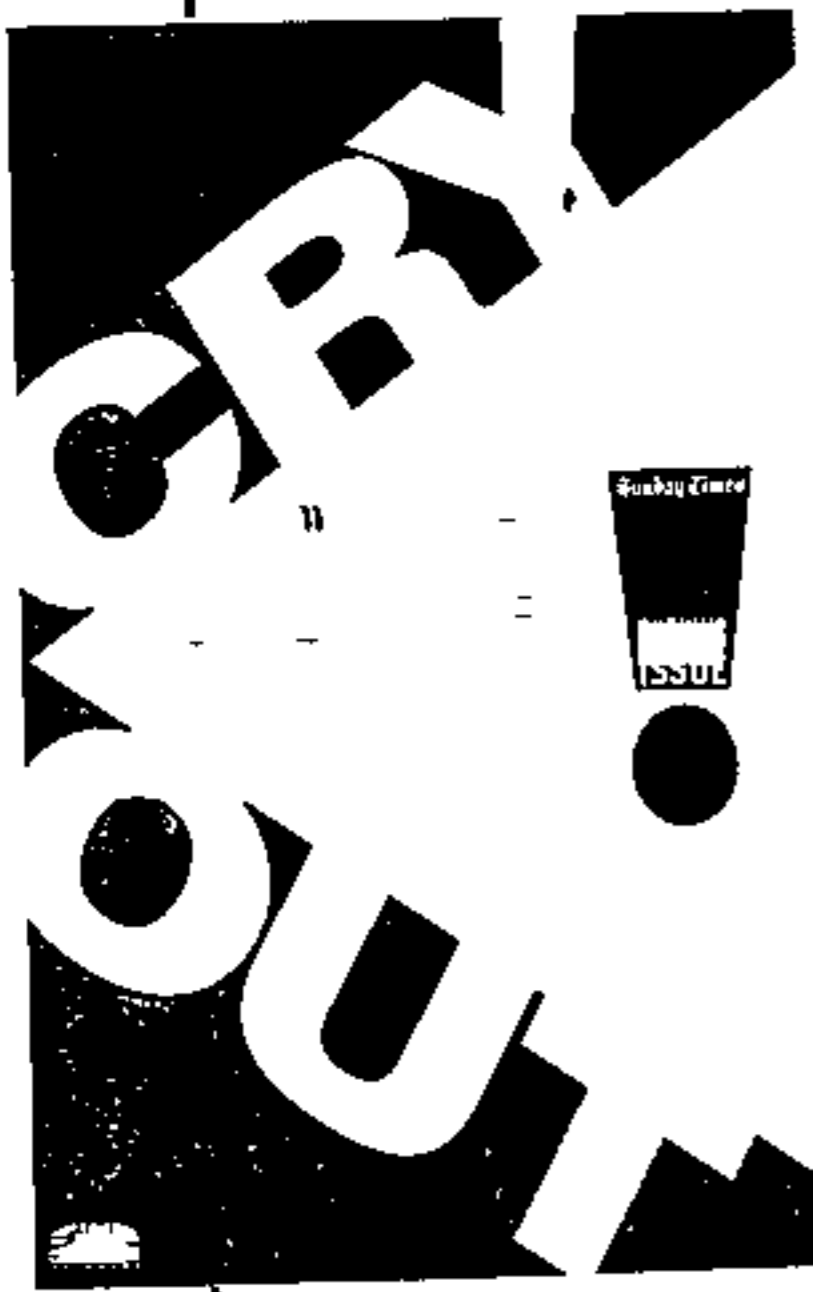
The *Sunday Times* won't be resting on its laurels following the demise of the *Sunday Star*. Its newly launched 12-month "Burning Issue" advertising campaign is designed to sell the publication to the advertising and marketing communities.

Advertising agencies will be invited to produce advertisements for social causes suggested by the public. This, it is hoped, will demonstrate the pulling power of the newspaper.

The attention of agency creatives will be grabbed by the prize of a trip for two to the Cannes advertising festival.

Agencies will be selected from the winners and runners-up of the AAA Ad of the Month awards.

Tony Koenderman



Tribune is ahead of the *Sunday Times* but in the PWV, where the *Sunday Times* has a massive all-race readership of 21%, the *Saturday Star* and *Sunday Star* each had only about 7% of the readership.

The vehicle for the new offensive will be the *Saturday Star*, which has a much bigger circulation base and a headlock on the property advertising market.

It also has a bigger ad revenue than the Sunday paper. According to Adindex, in the 12 months to November the *Sunday Star* garnered only R3,8m, compared with R6,9m for the *Saturday Star*. The *Sunday Times* main body pulled in R72,3m and its regional Metro section R4,9m.

Why did the *Sunday Star* fail to capture the support of advertisers? Editor-in-chief Richard Steyn puts it down to the depth and duration of the recession. "We decided we needed to get circulation up to around 160 000 to attract advertising support," he says. "Though our circulation rose, we were not getting there."

"We took the view that it makes more sense to focus where we are strong — on the Saturday and daily newspapers." He feels changing reading habits and the growth of Sunday shopping might give the Saturday paper an advantage.

Marketers, however, might take the view that it is not good tactics to tackle an entrenched market leader head-on on its own turf. Initially, the *Sunday Star* attempted to adopt a quality positioning but, since the relaunch in 1992, it has been targeting the mass-market readership that is the foundation of the *Sunday Times'* following.

People in ad agencies, who were largely responsible for making advertising decisions not to support it, have little doubt. "It never found its niche in the marketplace," says SBBW media director Janet Watermeyer. "It had a progression of problems from the start and its relaunch was too late. It was an expensive way to reach readers. The *Sunday Times* was better value for money for advertisers."

BSB/Bates media director Chris Rainford saw it as not being driven by market demand. "It was not that someone really identified a niche," she says. "It failed to attract an audience unique to itself. It never had the kind of niche that the *Tribune* and *Weekend Argus* have. They are part of the way of life in their areas and enjoy regional loyalty."

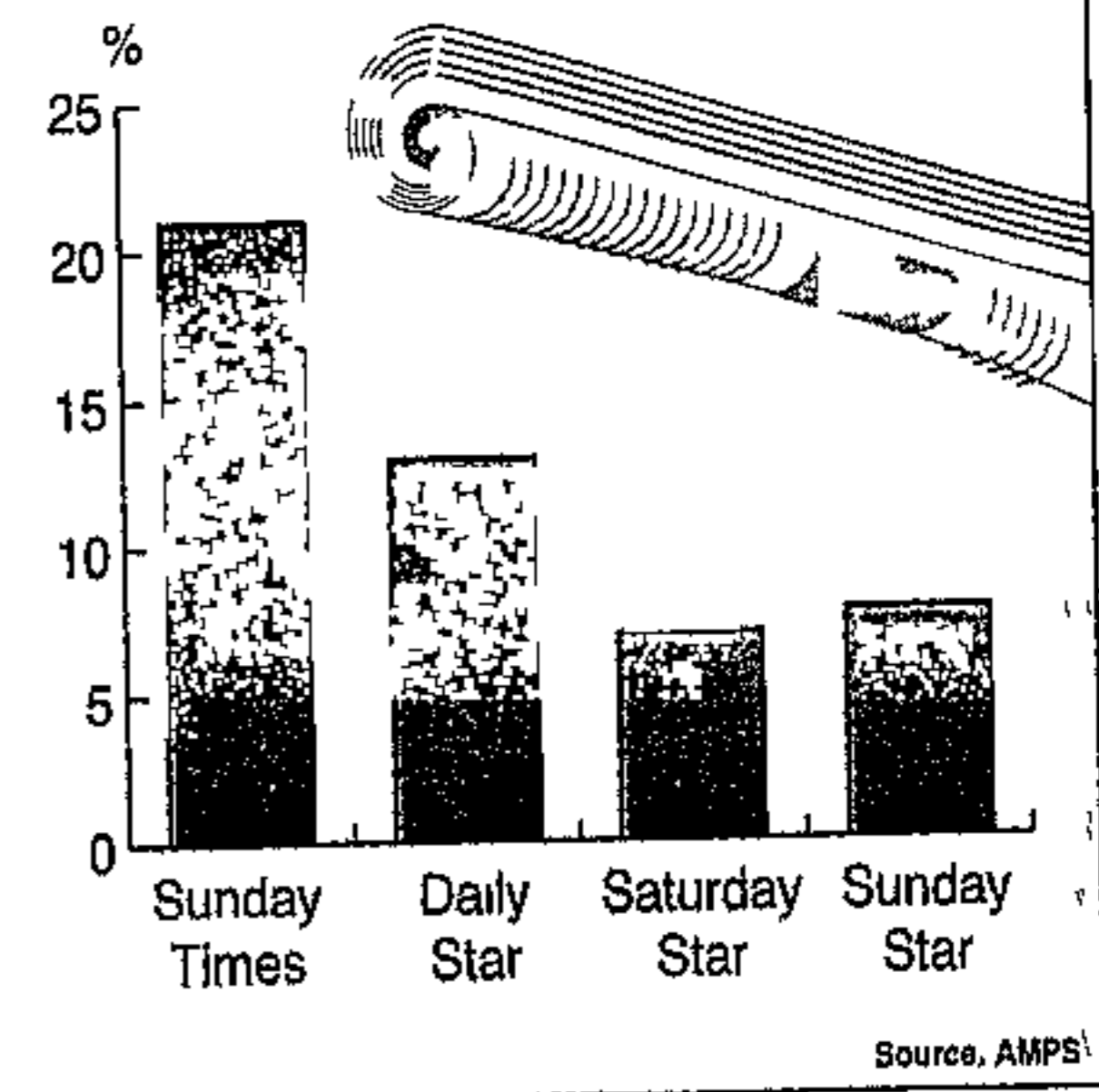
Rainford found the somewhat revolutionary attempts at producing reader-friendly design achieved the opposite. "They went crazy on this American layout. It was user-unfriendly, with too many sections."

And, while the *Sunday Star* achieved a fairly substantial circulation of more than

243

Leisure reading

Sunday newspapers all-race readership in PWV, 1993



100 000, the use of competitions to do this was regarded with suspicion. Roger Garlick, media director of Bernstein Loxton Golding & Klein, says "bought" circulation is always suspect. "These are not loyal readers. The moment you stop running the competitions you lose circulation again."

Few people believe there is room for another Sunday paper, though the new option is thought to have a better chance. "There is a limited amount of advertising money and it won't support another player," says Garlick. "But if it results in a stronger *Saturday Star* the market will benefit."

Designing men

Jeremy Sampson, who headed one of SA's top design shops in the Eighties, is to become CE of the Johannesburg office of Grapple-group, which will be renamed Grapplegroup Sampson.

Sampson went to Britain to join ad agency group Lopex six years ago and returned to SA in late 1992 to re-establish his local business. "But after 14 months on my own I felt I was never going to get back into the big projects," he says.

Sampson's track record (50 awards on three continents) combined with Grapple-group's record as one of SA's best design agencies, makes for a powerful combination. However, a succession of CEs at the agency in recent years suggest his biggest challenge will come in management.

Another company, Jeremy Sampson Corporate Strategies, remains a separate entity representing the London-based branding specialist, Interbrand.

Tony Koenderman

Sunday Star's payout panned

JOHANNESBURG —
The South African
Union of Journalists yes-
terday condemned what
it described as the cal-
lous attitude of the Ar-
gus Company in offering
its Sunday Star staff one
of "the worst termina-
tion packages seen in
the industry in years"

The newspaper put out
its last edition on Sun-
day.

(243)
The Argus Company
has offered journalists
one month's notice pay,
one month's severance
pay and a week's pay for
each year of service.

Sapa ~~ACT~~ 28/1/94

Star 29/1/94

National Sowetan

the cards

The Sowetan, currently South Africa's largest daily newspaper, with a circulation of around 215 000 and an almost total black readership, could become the darling of advertisers if, as proposed, it becomes a national newspaper.

The proposal was made public this week by the acting chairman of Prosper Africa Group, Dr Ntatho Motlana, following the news that the group had agreed in principle to purchase a 52 percent stake of the newspaper from the Argus Group.

Sowetan staff will hold 5 percent of the shares, while Argus will retain an indirect 43 percent stake.

Black market

As a national newspaper, circulation of the Sowetan could top 350 000 and, initially, ad rates would remain the same as they are now, according to Sowetan general manager Rory Wilson.

"We have a plan to turn Sowetan into a national newspaper, but have to make sure it will be financially viable.

"We will act as quickly as it is possible to get equipment and people. Obviously we would like to have it up and running before the election. That's possible — but not probable," he says.

With the black market a clear target of most advertisers, the Sowetan should enjoy higher advertising volumes as a national newspaper.

"Advertisers in the Sowetan could in future get more bank for their

(243)
PROSPER Africa Group this week announced its purchase of a 52 percent stake in the Sowetan newspaper from the Argus Group and disclosed plans to publish nationally, MANDY JEAN WOODS reports.

bucks, especially when white national advertisers realise we can deliver their black market consumers in massive numbers," Wilson says.

As a national, the Sowetan would be able to reach black communities who are not served by any newspapers at this time — like Khayelitsha, for example."

National distribution would include Durban, Cape Town and the eastern Cape.

"Our reader surveys show that they want to know what is going on in their communities. As a national newspaper we would be able to target them editorially and with relevant advertising," he says.

The look of the newspaper would remain the same — "we won't tinker with what is working" — but the size would probably increase significantly.

"Prosper Africa has a commitment to spreading equity to the man in the street, rather than allowing control of the Sowetan to rest in the hands of a trust," Motlana says. "This will ensure that the newspaper remains commercially driven."

The Sowetan's editorial independence will be entrenched and board appointments will include a majority of Prosper Africa nominees, together with Argus appointees.

The Sowetan's editor Aggrey Klaaste, Wilson and newspaper staff representatives will also be appointed to the board.

"There is no doubt the sale of a majority stake of the Sowetan to a black company will increase our credibility," Wilson says.

"The success of the Sowetan has been its editorial independence, particularly in the area of politics. As soon as we pander to groups or submit to pressure, our credibility will be lost," he says. "We will all be watching very carefully to see if the new owners will stand up to that test and I am confident they will."

Media control

Prosper Africa directors Motlana, Dr Sam Motsuenyane, Franklin Sonn and Dr Enos Mabuza are members, but not office-bearers, of the ANC.

The Argus will continue to provide services and support for five years.

Argus chief executive Doug Band says the transaction will reduce the group's exposure to print media, thereby supporting its policy of reducing the concentration of media control.

The move leaves the Argus Group without any black-oriented publications in its fold, although The Star enjoys a high percentage of black readers.

Creda sees sales soar

By AUDREY D'ANGELO

CREDA Press — which prints books, company reports, magazines and other publications including the Government Gazette — has had a marked increase in business in recent months, sales director Andrew McDowell said yesterday (243)

Pointing out that this indicated a strengthening economy, he said "We are always busy in October and November. But we were busy in December, which is normally a slack month, and in January too. And bookings for February are very good. "It's a very positive sign and it has lifted morale"

But Creda is not dependent on SA business alone. It also has contracts to supply school books for neighbouring African countries which are often paid for by aid agencies or overseas governments. CT 29/1/74

McDowell told guests at a luncheon to celebrate Creda's first anniversary in its new premises at Epping that the volume of work had increased by 28% year on year. This was due partly to the improved efficiency of working in one building. Previously Creda had occupied four adjoining buildings

Body to guard free speech

Bill 112194

MUNGO SOGGOT

SOUTH Africans would be living in a fool's paradise if they thought free speech would be guaranteed in the new era, media lawyer Norman Manom said at the launch of the Freedom of Expression Foundation.

The foundation, which will act as a non-governmental free speech watchdog, was formed last week through the merger of the Anti Censorship Action Group and Campaign for Open Media. (243)

Manom said SA's Bill of Rights would be "like a toy to politicians, judges and academics alike, who will doubtless be inspired to experiment with new forms of social engineering in dealing with the vexed problem of free speech"

History showed that regulating the content of speech had been the "pet soft option of many in power" who found it easier to impose a gag than to tackle such problems as violence and racism, or ensure state security with more expensive measures.

In his guide to the Bill's nuances, Manom said non-political expression such as pornography would be more vulnerable to censorship than political speech. This was because the Bill of Rights made it easier for the courts to reject laws restricting speech relating to "free and fair political

activity". What was meant by political speech was not clear, and given SA's history, the courts might favour a narrow interpretation.

There was also a danger that free speech clauses in the Bill of Rights would clash with each other. For example, it was possible that freedom of expression would be subordinated to the interests of racial equality in the new scheme of things. "What may fall into the category of racial hate speech, for instance, is the stuff of the nation's political dialogue."

Manom said these kinds of complications made the new foundation's contribution to the free speech debate essential.

Looking ahead he said: "Even though the missiles will be thrown our way, perhaps we can throw one or two back."

University of Fort Hare professor Mbulelo Mzamane said the foundation would not focus exclusively on the state's powers over freedom of speech but on freedom of information at "grassroots level" as well. The foundation would also influence media policy developments to ensure the independence and diversity of SA's media.

New editor for South

B/Say 112194
AMANDA VERMEULEN

RAFIQ Rohan, deputy editor of Cape Town independent newspaper South, has taken over from Guy Berger as editor.

Berger, editor since 1991, will remain as business manager. He has applied to head Rhodes University's journalism department, but will continue at South if he fails to land the post.

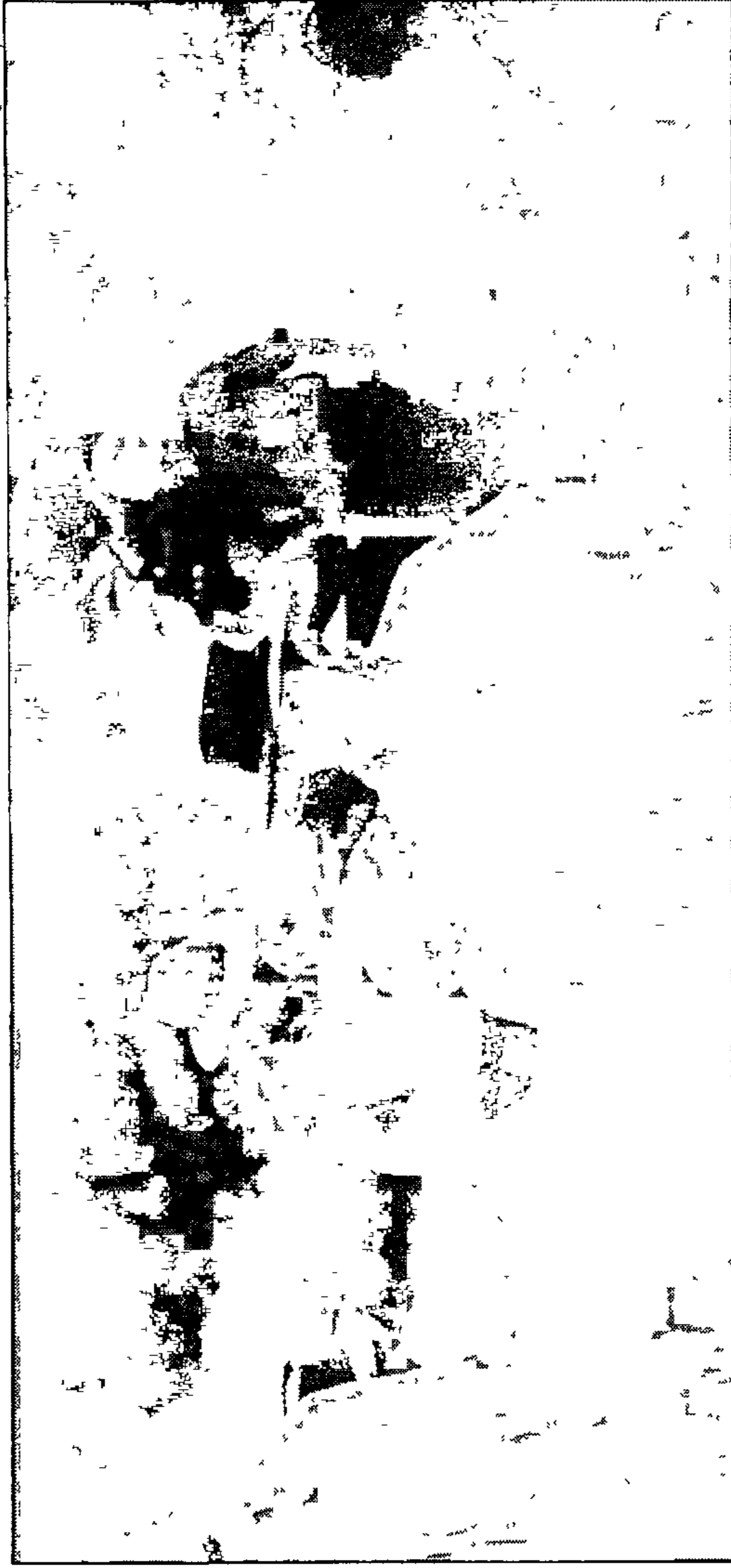
Rohan said South had introduced a new supplement, Chalkline, aimed at educators. South would launch a free sheet this month and a toll free telephone line to assist with voter education.

Rohan said the weekly free sheet would have a circulation of 150 000.

South still required financial assistance but had managed to reduce the amount needed by two thirds in the past two years, he said. (243)

Berger said the paper's future looked good.

Charles goes walkabout in western Oz



Prince of the Outback ... Prince Charles visited the remote area of Deep Gorge, in the far north of Western Australia, yesterday to see Aboriginal carvings. PICTURE AP

Maritzburg — The Sunday Star's retrenchment offer fell far short of its obligation to the SA Union of Journalists members who were being retrenched, SAUJ president Yvonne Grimbeek said yesterday.

This was particularly so "considering that Sunday Star's closure can also be attributed to a

host of poor management decisions", Grimbeek said (24/3). The offer was the barest minimum, one week per year of service, a month's notice and one month *ex gratia* payment.

Argus management has rejected the SAUJ's demand for an improved package, to the dismay of the affected members.

"There are strong signs of mismanagement, one being that

the paper made losses of R22 million before it closed," said Grimbeek.

The SAUJ would discuss future action, including obtaining legal advice.

The general manager of The Star, Graeme King, today declined to comment on the SAUJ allegations — Sapa

Paper 'mismanaged'

Star 212194

Municipal workers end

wage strike

Star 212194

BY MOKONE MOLETE
SOWETO BUREAU

A strike by Soweto City Council workers ended yesterday after management had promised to pay outstanding wages at the end of the month.

The agreement, made on the day the seven-year rent boycott ended, was struck after council workers had heckled and booed senior council staff at a meeting.

However, at midday the council and the South African Municipal Workers' Union met and agreed that

■ The council will pay wage arrears dating between July last year and January this year at the end of the month.

■ A moratorium on rationalisation This means no council employee will be victimised for taking part in a strike while the moratorium is in effect

Workers from all three Greater Soweto councils will meet at the Orlando Stadium on Sunday to discuss recent developments. Metropolitan Chamber chief executive Vic Milne said "major progress" had been made in negotiating for the TPA to provide funding to cover the debts of the three Soweto councils to their workers

NAP ready to buy more publications

CT 412/94 (243)
By ARI JACOBSON

THE black-owned communications groups, New Africa Publishers (NAP), which recently took up a controlling stake in the Sowetan newspaper from the Argus group, will purchase other titles in the medium term according to director Ntatho Motlana

Motlana said in an interview, that the group was interested in creating a voice in the black market by gaining control of newspaper and magazine publications such as City Press, New Nation, Enterprise and Cape-based South newspaper.

THE SOWETAN AND CELLULAR PHONES

Fm 4/2/94

Is this any way to empower blacks?

A long-simmering dispute in the ANC over black empowerment has broken out into the open after last week's announcement that a group of black investors is acquiring a majority share in the *Sowetan* newspaper

The ANC has no objections to blacks controlling SA's largest-selling daily newspaper — especially since four of the five investors are ANC supporters — but some officials at Shell House are upset over what the investors gave up. The group, which is led by Dr Nthato Motlana, got 52,5% of the *Sowetan* from the Argus Group by trading 6% in one of the two cellular telephone networks now under construction — just three months after the ANC concluded a long series of tense negotiations with the networks, government and Cosatu aimed at increasing blacks' share of the networks

Says ANC information services head Andile Ngcaba "This is painful after all we did for black economic empowerment. We can't recognise this deal." But he adds "We are still discussing the issue"

Indeed, Ngcaba has been locked in meetings over the issue with other top ANC officials for much of the past two weeks. The discussions are a reprise of the long sessions held last October that finally forced the two networks — Mobile Telephone Networks and Vodacom — to sell a larger percentage of their shares to blacks and the State under threat of mass action and cancellation of their licences

In the talks, M-Net and the UK's Cable & Wireless — the largest shareholders in Mobile Telephone Networks — each agreed to give up 5% of the network. But Motlana's group was also forced to give up a 5% share, highlighting the gulf between his market-orientated investors and the socialist outlook of Ngcaba and others in the ANC and Cosatu who believe that cellular phones should be run as a State utility

In the end, the shares pried loose were earmarked for a Cosatu-aligned pension fund (5%) that has still not been named and Transtel, the telecommunications subsidiary of State-owned Transnet (10%)

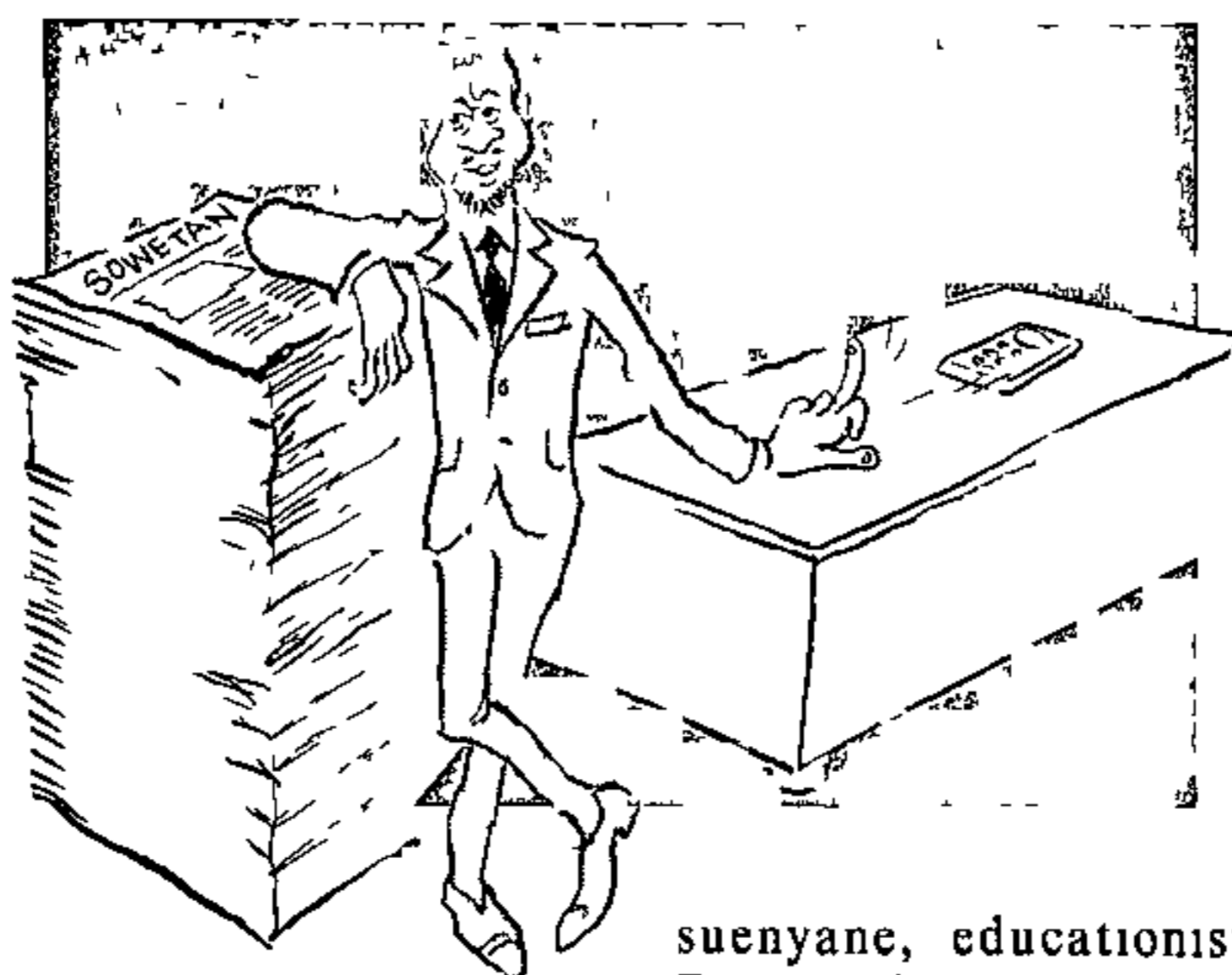
For its part, Cosatu says it believes that the pension fund is a way to get equity to the man in the street rather than to rich businessmen

At the time, Transtel executive manager Alf Shulze said. "The push did not come from us. The push came from the ANC. They wanted a bigger stake for government. They felt Transtel would be a vehicle for

more State ownership" (*Business* October 29) (243) (215)

Ngcaba now claims that under the agreement, Transtel has the right of first refusal to buy additional shares if one of the other shareholders reneges on the deal or does not stick to the agreement. He says Motlana's *Sowetan* deal violates the agreement and that the ANC is looking at taking legal action. Motlana, however, denies breaking any part of the agreement, saying all he has done is taken on a new partner (Argus)

The controversy underlines the problems in artificially empowering blacks. The next government could mandate that blacks must own a share of a new venture, but there's nothing to stop the black investors from turning around and selling their share to white investors. In this case, Motlana's group — which includes businessman Enos Mabuza, former Nafcoc head Sam Mot-



suenyane, educationist Franklin Sonn and Black Chain supermarkets

founder and PAC supporter Paul Gama — gave up 6% of Mobile Telephone Networks but still keeps 14%. Argus now holds almost 12% of the network, including the share it holds through its 23% stake in M-Net (*Business* January 28)

Motlana, a GP in Soweto since 1957 and a close friend and the personal physician of Nelson Mandela, has had some difficulty raising the money to purchase his Prosper Africa Group's cellular network share. The amount of money that the shareholders in Mobile Telephone Networks must put up has not been made public, but each network is expected to need around R1bn to set up countrywide, with half the funds being spent upfront and half the payments spread out over several years after test operations begin next month. That means Motlana's group may have to put up as much as R70m now, even after the swap with Argus. A spokesman for Multichoice, M-Net's sister company, says "We feel comfortable that Prosper Africa will get the money together"

Though Motlana admits that "there were some problems with funding from the Industrial Development Corp," he says "Funding has finally been arranged. The *Sowetan* deal is through and we just have to tie up a few loose ends"

But why is he relinquishing a share in tomorrow's technology, cellular telephony, in favour of yesterday's, the print media?

Motlana says the cellular networks will not make money for at least two years, while the *Sowetan* (with an estimated value of R62m) produces profits now. And he says the *Sowetan* investment is just the first step towards an independent black-led communications group that will extend to print and electronic media such as radio and TV

He believes that it will be easier to sell shares in Prosper Africa to blacks now that it owns the *Sowetan*. "It strengthens our portfolio and balances our investment. By balancing it with cellular, we have a huge growth potential." By selling Prosper Africa shares to blacks, he will be able to "spread equity to the man in the street" *Marina Bidoli*

OLYMPICS — 1

Big boost for the Cape

Winning Nocs's backing to bid for the 2004 Olympic Games was a triumph for Cape Town. But the real challenge now is to convince the new government that it won't be left with a huge financial hangover if the International Olympic Committee awards the Games to SA

In its effort to win government endorsement and a commitment to underwrite the Games — a prerequisite for making the bid to the IOC — Cape Town's bid committee will argue that while the cost is undeniably huge, the benefits can more than compensate. On operating costs, the committee predicts a profit of R96m based on a computer software model similar to the one Sydney used for its winning bid for the 2000 Games

Cliff McMillan, Cape Town's feasibility-study team leader and SA chairman of consulting engineers Ove Arup, says operating costs are estimated at R2,8bn, which will be covered by projected revenue of R3,7bn, made up mainly of corporate sponsorships and the sale of TV rights. About R840m of the projected R936m operating surplus will go towards capital costs, leaving an operating surplus of R96m

Though about 60% of the infrastructure necessary to support the Games must be in place by the time Cape Town makes its bid to the IOC in 1997, additional capital spending of about R2,1bn will go ahead only if the city

Boobs 'n tucks but no political ads

wm 4-10/3/94 (273)

Cathy Powers

FAIR LADY'S fare for women this month includes a guide to healthy breasts and a feature on a plastic surgeon who re-designed the women in his family — but no political advertising

When Lyndall Campher, deputy managing director of Eurospace Africa — responsible for placing ANC political adverts — learned of the decision, she was shocked

"Rejecting the advert seems to suggest such an old-fashioned view of women. Do we still have to retire to the 'withdrawing' room and swap recipes while the men discuss politics and current affairs?"

The advert in question was one for

the ANC, specifically aimed at women. It carried the words "I have prayed, I have laughed, I have sung and I have cried, but until now I have not had a voice."

Far Lady's editor, Liz Butler, said the decision not to carry any political advertising was made before any adverts were submitted.

"We decided that the party with the most money would be in a position to place the most ads. One party could then appear to be affiliated with the magazine."

But other magazines in the *Nasionale Pers* stable have run the advert. There were some complaints, said *Sarie* editor Andre Rossouw. "Our conservative readers objected to the advert because the

ANC is not a Christian organisation. Others complain because it's the ANC's advertisement."

Jane Raphaely, editor and publisher of *Cosmopolitan* and *Femina*, said "I can't imagine our readers are so narrow-minded as to object."

While the editors of *Nasionale Pers* magazines have been left to make their own decision on whether to carry political advertising, Chris Backeberg, executive director of Republican Press Publications, said all their magazines would carry such advertising.

Times Media Limited managing director, David Kovarsky, said *Playboy* magazine accepted political advertising but "this doesn't mean we subscribe to a particular party".

Media 'police' given power

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

HEAVY penalties can be imposed on people who obstruct the Independent Media Commission or flout its rulings — but only registered political parties can lodge complaints to it.

This was disclosed yesterday by the commission's chairman, Mr Justice John Trengrove, in a statement about the new commission's role in monitoring broadcasting services and state-financed publications

The IMC had been appointed by the Transitional Executive Council "to ensure that the broadcasting services treat political parties equitably during the election period"

It also had the task of ensuring that state-financed publications

Monitors to ensure fair play

and state information services were not directly, or indirectly, used to advance the interest of any political party

"This work is intended to promote and contribute towards the creation of a climate favourable to free political participation and a free and fair election"

Any person who wilfully hindered the commission, any committee or any commissioner in the performance of his or her du-

ties, was liable on conviction to a maximum fine of R5 000

Anyone who failed to comply with the ruling of the IMC flowing from the adjudication process was liable on conviction to a maximum fine of R100 000

Judge Trengrove said complaints of unbalanced and unfair political coverage should be brought to the attention of the commission by a political party which considered itself to be disadvantaged

"The commission will not be receiving complaints from individual members of the public"

All hearings of complaints to be adjudicated by the IMC would be heard in public, he said

The other IMC commissioners are Dr Namane Magau, Mr Raymond Louw, Dr Willem de Klerk, Ms Zubeida Jaffer and Ms Libby Lloyd

258
243

CT 4/2/94



OPPORTUNITY ... "We need more journalists," says Editor Khulu Sibiyana.

Open door to journalism

CITY Press Editor Khulu Sibiyana, who is a director on the board of the Media Development Trust, this week announced that bursaries were available for a new course in journalism for young people

The course, conducted by the MDT in association with an internationally recognised college in Johannesburg, will run for seven months on a full-time basis

It will cover all vital aspects of journalism - including sub-editing, layout, design and photogra-

phy

"This is a rare opportunity for aspirant journalists," Sibiyana said. "Our young people must take full advantage of it"

The MDT, launched three months ago, has already sponsored three Technikon students who are studying journalism

"We have been inundated with inquiries from both media workers who want to improve their journalistic skills and young people aspiring to enter the journalism

field," Sibiyana said. The MDT is also designing courses in specialised reporting in fields such as business, labour, arts, religion, motoring, politics and local government (243)

Said Sibiyana: "Our reporters have been conspicuous by their absence in these specialised fields. We can no longer allow the status quo to continue unchallenged"

Another area of grave concern for media workers, he said, was the scanty black representa-

tion in such departments as sub-editing, production and reproduction

The MDT will also run electronic media courses in areas such as interviewing skills, camera work and script writing, and will provide in-house training in partnership with companies

Applications for the course can be directed to Revelation Ntola, MDT, PO Box 261326, Eskom 2023

Other inquiries relating to MDT can be directed to the same address

CIPRESS 6/2/94

'Biggest press congress' in city

CT9/2/94 By BARRY STREEK (243)
Political Staff

THE world's biggest-ever International Press Institute (IPI) congress is to be opened in Cape Town on Monday by ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela and President F W de Klerk.

More than 500 editors and media executives from all around the world will gather in the city for the three-day conference on February 14, 15 and 16.

"Delegates are arriving from Iceland and Russia, Brazil and Germany, Australia and Zambia," the local IPI organising committee said in a statement. "Major delegations are attending from Japan and Korea, and editors from India are coming to South Africa in their formal capacity for the first time."

Apart from Mr Mandela and Mr De Klerk, South Africa's other Nobel Peace Prize winner, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, will also speak at the conference.

The IPI organising committee consists of Editor of the Star Mr Richard Steyn, former editor of the Star Mr Harvey Tyson, head of the New York-based Afro-American Institute Mr Frank Ferrari, Cape Times former editor Mr Tony Heard, Rand Daily Mail former editor Mr Raymond Louw, editor of Tribute and Radio 702 host Mr Jon Qwelane, Cosmopolitan editor Ms Jane Raphaely, assistant to the SABC's director-general Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, and Cape Times editor Mr J C Viviers.

The Irish Connection

Financial giant steps in to take over Argus Newspapers

JOHN SPIRA
Argus Correspondent

ONE financial giant steps into the shoes of another as effective control of South Africa's largest newspaper group changes hands

And, for the first time since London's Financial Times disposed of its 50 percent stake in South Africa's Financial Mail in the late 1960s, a foreign group has acquired a major interest in the domestic newspaper industry

This time round, however, there's a great deal more involved — in terms of money and political/economic implications

Independent Newspapers (INP), an Irish-based group with newspaper and related interests in several countries, is to pay more than R125 million for its 31 percent stake in Argus Newspapers

Argus Holdings, which owns 100 percent of Argus Newspapers, will list the newspaper company on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange — probably in early May. Argus Newspapers shares will be distributed to Argus Holdings shareholders, giving JCI and Anglo American 31 percent of Argus Newspapers

This stake will then be sold to INP. Effective control of Argus Newspapers will therefore pass from Anglo/JCI to INP. The stated commitment by Argus Holdings, JCI and Anglo to deconcentrate ownership of the South African press will have been realised

The purchase price of the 31 percent interest is likely to be more than R125 million, capitalising Argus Newspapers at around R420 million. Payment will be either by cash (financial rands) or shares in INP.

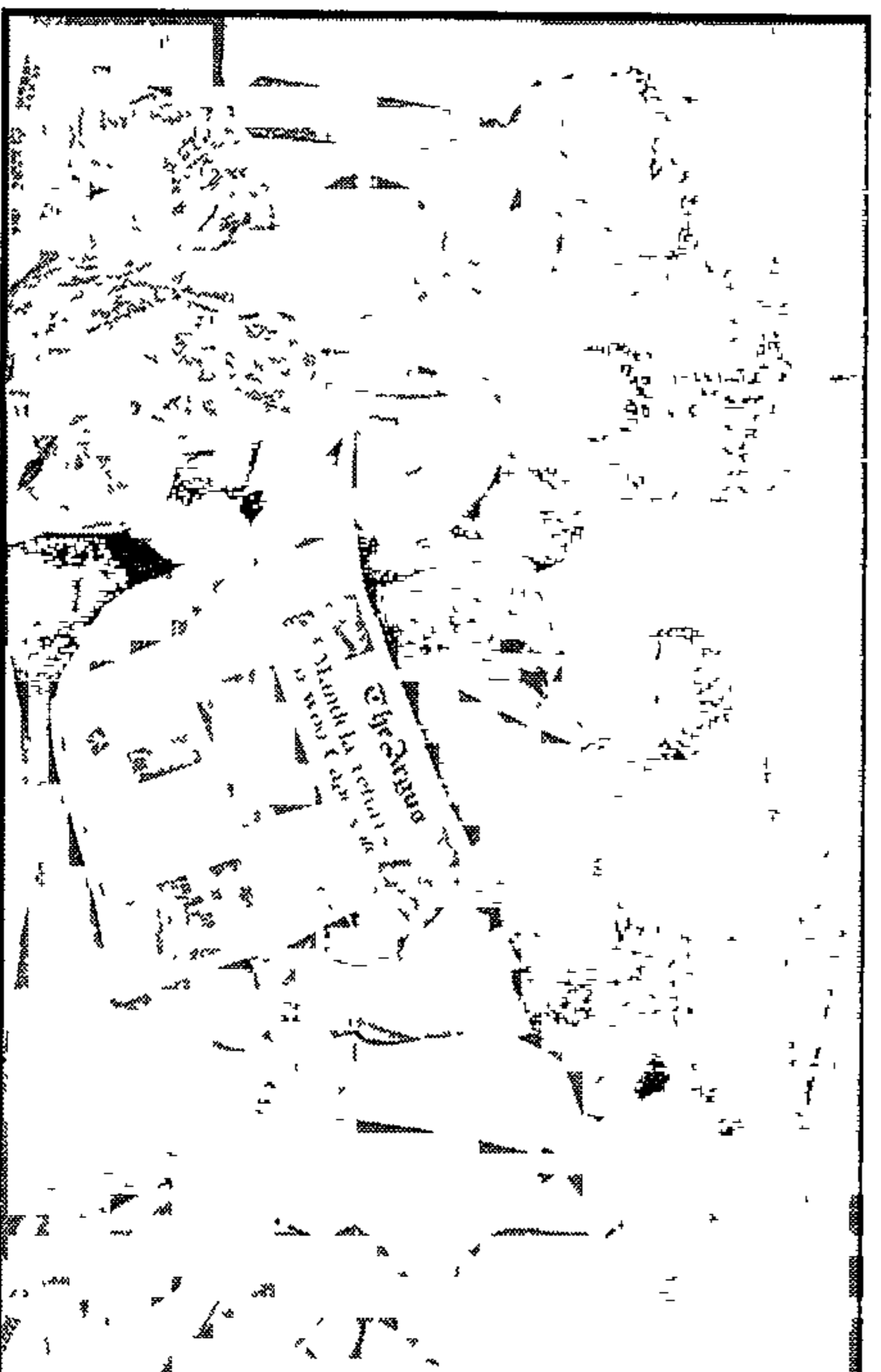
INP is chaired and controlled by Tony O'Reilly, former British Lions rugby wing, chief executive of hugely successful world food giant Heinz Corporation, and a director of the Washington Post and the New York Stock Ex-



THE DEAL CLINCHED: From left: the chairman of Times Media, Pat Retief, Argus Group chief executive Doug Band, new Argus Newspapers proprietor Tony O'Reilly and his son, Cameron.



PLENTY OF DRIVE: Tony O'Reilly in full cry in his playing days...



THIS IS HOW WE DO IT! Cameron O'Reilly, son of Irish business tycoon Tony O'Reilly who has just acquired a major interest in Argus Newspapers, visited Newspaper House today for a first-hand look at part of his father's new investment. On hand to greet him were Argus staffers including general manager Tony Howard, extreme left, and deputy editor Jonathan Hobday, second from right.

Picture: JIM McLAGAN, The Argus

Assurance on editorial independence welcomed

ESTHER WAUGH and BRENDAN TEMPLETON
Argus Correspondents

MOST political parties and media groups have welcomed the takeover of Argus Newspapers by international businessman Tony O'Reilly

Most said it was important that he live up to his promise of not interfering with editorial policy and to remain independent of political parties. Inkatha Freedom Party spokesman Dr Ziba Jiyane welcomed the takeover, saying it could "only be a good thing in terms of the plurality of ownership of South African newspapers"

But the immediate acid test of the foreigner's takeover would depend on his respect of "democratic values" and the need to report all sides of a story

Democratic Party media spokesman Peter Soal said "I hope the new ownership of the majority shareholding of the Argus Company will continue to respect the editorial independence of the Argus newspapers and not interfere with them in any way just as Anglo American did not"

"I am, however, concerned about his (O'Reilly's) close links with the ANC," added Soal. Dr O'Reilly is a close personal friend of ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

Conservative Party chief whip Frank le Roux welcomed the end of Anglo American's relationship with Argus Newspapers "Anglo American has never been a good friend of real Africa-
news"

But he said it did not "sound sweet to the ear to hear a foreigner" was buying a controlling share of "such an important media group"

The National Party and the African National Congress had not responded to the takeover at the time of going to press.

The Afrikaaner Weerstandsbeweging said the blandness of the political realign-

that an ANC-ruled South Africa would be no different from any other "tinpot" African one-party state

The AWB believed the move was "another disinvestment in the new South Africa." It asked whether payment for the INP holding in the Argus Group would be paid locally or overseas and whether it would be a firmand transaction

The Argus editor-in-chief Andrew Drysdale said "The firm assurances of editorial independence are important to the integrity of our newspapers. It continues a tradition which has served South Africa and our readers well through often turbulent times

"The new international links also promise opportunities for the strengthening and advancement of Argus newspapers"

Business Day editor Jim Jones was delighted with the news, saying an important spinoff would be Argus Newspapers' link with international resources

The takeover by a foreigner who had an excellent reputation of non-intervention in editorial policy also removed any doubt that existing owners would have "entrenched control" in a different guise

He added that it would boost the legitimacy of the group because perceptions that mining groups controlled the flow of information would cease

"Anglo American has never attempted to tell me what to write in my newspaper. But it removes the suspicion (of editorial independence), which is perhaps a healthy thing," he added

The international resources would be an important plus "We have been so ostracised by the international community that we have lost touch with what is going on in the

243

ARG

10 | 2 | 14

He explains that a firm figure cannot at this stage be placed on the value of the deal because it will be based on a price-earnings ratio ranging from 10 to 15 of Argus Newspapers' 1993 earnings

Last year Argus Newspapers generated revenue of R685 million and pre-tax profits of R53 million. It publishes more than 4 million newspapers a week and owns the leading daily newspapers in Cape Town (The Argus), Johannesburg (The Star), and Durban (Natal Mercury and Daily News).

INP owns 65 percent of the newspapers in Ireland and is the fourth largest newspaper group in Australia. INP recently bought a 24.99 percent stake in the London daily newspaper, The Independent

The prospective spinoffs for Argus Newspapers following the INP deal are immense. In addition to having been hived off from any connection with Argus Holdings' other newspaper interests, it now has a world player in its own industry in the driving seat.

Accordingly, at the stroke of a pen, it has opened doors

in Britain, Australia and the United States

And on the domestic front, Dr O'Reilly expresses himself as committed to grow and diversify Argus Newspapers

"I have a deep affection for South Africa. I believe that in the next decade South Africa will be looked upon as a lucky country. It will prove to the world that a plural society can work, it will be one of the world's most dynamic economies

"From a newspaper point of view, South Africa is enjoying a new core of literacy — but one of the many reasons my group took the decision to invest here"

INP, capitalised at R1.5 billion, is the sixth-largest industrial company on the Irish Stock Exchange. Just under 28 percent of its shares are held by Dr O'Reilly

It is the dominant newspaper group in Ireland with a market share of more than two-and-a-half times its nearest rival. At a time when rival newspapers have struggled to break even, INP's newspaper profits have soared

INP's strategy has been to

extend its media interests overseas in addition to developing its domestic newspaper interests. It has built up significant operations in France and Australia in outdoor advertising and publishing, concentrating on establishing strong market positions in each area of its business

In addition to its new South African interests and its recent purchase of a large stake in The Independent, its major foreign interests comprise

- A 25 percent stake in APN, Australia's largest regional newspaper group and that country's fourth-largest newspaper group

- Buspak, the dominant transit advertising operation in Australia

- Poster advertising and street furniture sales in France

- Free magazines and regional newspapers in Britain

In the five years to December 1992, INP's earnings rose from 14.6p to 21p a share. And British investment analysts expect the growth rate to accelerate over the next few years

Irish newspaper group acquires 31 percent of The Star's parent company

O'Reilly buys Argus

Star 10/2/94

243

MAGNATE assures editors that the independence of their newspapers will remain intact

BY JOHN SPIRA

In a deal likely to be worth in excess of R125 million, Ireland's Independent Newspapers will acquire 31 percent of Argus Newspapers, owner of The Star.

This will give Independent Newspapers effective control of Argus Newspapers.

Argus Holdings and major shareholders JCI and Anglo-American have announced the transaction in terms of their stated commitment to deconcentrate ownership of the South African press.

Independent Newspapers plc (NP) is chaired and controlled by Tony O'Reilly, chairman and chief executive of the high-



In the news . JCI chairman Pat Reilly, Argus Holdings MD Doug Band, new owner Tony O'Reilly and his son Cameron. PICTURE KEN OOSTERBR



Heinz Corporation

Argus Holdings managing director Doug Band says the intention is to list Argus Newspapers on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, with all Argus Newspapers shares to be distributed to Argus Holdings shareholders

In terms of this arrangement, JCI and Anglo will acquire 31 percent of Argus Newspapers, which stake will then be sold to INP.

INP owns 65 percent of the newspapers in Ireland and is the fourth largest newspaper group in Australia.

It recently bought 24.99 percent of the London daily newspaper The Independent.

O'Reilly told Argus editors that their independence would be assured.

Argus Newspapers' 1993 revenue was R685 million and its pre-tax profits totalled R53 million.

It publishes more than 4 million newspapers a week and owns the leading daily newspapers in Johannesburg, Cape

► To Page 3

Ireland's Tony O'Reilly buys Argus

◀ From Page 1

Town and Durban.

Its daily circulation market share in South Africa's four largest cities is a dominant 68 percent.

According to Band, Argus Newspapers would benefit by becoming part of a powerful international media group, which

would be able to offer added value in a number of areas.

The deal would also facilitate the growth and development of Argus Newspapers

O'Reilly (57) has been interested in South Africa since his first visit in 1955 as a member of the British Lions rugby team. (232) (243)

He has visited this country

many times since then ("I have a deep and committed affection for your country") and in the past three years has sought to identify an investment for Heinz in South Africa.

He has been chief executive of Heinz since 1979, from which time its market capitalisation has increased from \$900 million to \$9 billion.

Star 1012194

NP on media 'meddling'

PRETORIA — The NP
yesterday said it wel-
comed foreign invest-
ment — which was an ad-
vantage to South Africa
— if it was regarded as
being based purely on
business considerations.
An NP statement, on
the sale of 31% of the
Argus Group's shares to
the Irish Independent
Newspapers, warned
that there was always a
danger that somebody in
the position of Mr Tony
O'Reilly would "suc-
cumb to the temptation
of meddling in editorial
policy" — Sapa

● Argus shares up —

Page 11 (243)

Argus takeover boosts group's share price

180% 243

By ARI JACOBSON

Newspapers
The other major English press group, Times Media Limited, is ultimately controlled by Anglo-American Newspapers (INP). Yesterday TML MD Dave Kovarsky said that a meeting between the two publishing houses would also relieve the

would take place, to thrash out contractual obligations and to determine the future of certain press titles. In an interview Kovarsky welcomed the arrival of O'Reilly to take control of the Argus. He said the move would also relieve the

pressure on Anglo-American over "press concentration". He added "I would like the morning group to remain intact". Meanwhile Cameron O'Reilly, the son of the Argus's new owner, was on a whistle-stop visit to Cape Town yesterday.

surveying the Argus operations. O'Reilly said the newly acquired media investment in South Africa would be grown. Kovarsky said Argus Holdings was likely to retain its 37% holding in TML but printing ar-

rangements with Argus Newspapers and its new shareholder would have to be revised. Also at stake is Argus Holdings' 18% stake in pay TV network M-Net, which it could have to sell if it ceases to publish a daily newspaper,

reports MARCIA KLEIN from Johannesburg. TML has a pre-emptive right to buy Argus' M-Net interest. If it fails to do so Nasionale Pers is next in line. It would cost TML close to R300m to buy Argus's stake.

Argus CE Doug Band said its stake in M-Net was not being considered at this stage.

JCI and TML chairman Pat Retief said M-Net would be held in Argus Holdings, and it was the intention to keep ownership of M-Net there.

CAPE

Argus shares surge on news of Irish deal

243
ARG 11/2/94
BRUCE CAMERON
and DAVID BREIER
Staff Reporters

SHAREHOLDERS have given a stamp of approval to the purchase of a 31 percent stake in Argus Newspapers by Ireland's Independent Newspapers (INP), with Argus Holdings' share price gaining R6 to R40 on news of the deal.

The share price fell back by R2 today.

Not even lukewarm reaction from political parties, including the African National Congress, could dull the 18 percent increase in value of the shares.

But the news had no upward effect on the shares of associated media companies in which Argus Holdings have a significant interest. The companies, Times Media Limited and M-Net, are not directly affected by the purchase of the stake by Irish newspaper owner and industrialist Tony O'Reilly.

Share market analysts were confident today that the deal would be a stimulus for the whole printing and publishing sector of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Cameron O'Reilly, deputy head of INP's Australian operations and Dr O'Reilly's son, yesterday assured South Africans that Argus Newspapers, which owns The Argus, would remain politically independent and retain its right to criticise all political parties.

"In Ireland all the political parties hate us equally," said Mr O'Reilly proudly.

He said the record of INP's 25 years of editorial independence spoke for itself, adding that it would be "misguided" for any of INP's newspapers to support one political side.

This assurance follows allegations in the pro-National Party Press that Dr O'Reilly had outspoken ANC sympathies and would give the ANC a foothold in the English-language Press.

But he has told Argus editors their independence will be assured.

His son went further, pointing out that INP was in the commercial business of running newspapers and the Argus group had built up a good reputation based on editorial integrity.

"You cannot do business by undercutting the credibility of your newspapers which by their nature must be critics," he said.

And he pointed out that in any event INP was due to acquire its Argus shareholding in June — long after the April 26-28 elections, effectively quashing any suggestions of interference in South African politics or that it would support the ANC in the elections.

Politics aside, Mr O'Reilly says INP's expertise in other media fields will be put to good use in South Africa. This includes its involvement in pay television — although he adds that Argus Newspapers is not due to take over Argus Holdings' share of M-Net.

In addition INP is involved in other advertising projects such as outdoor advertising in Mexico, France and Australia including billboards and bus panels.

Confirming Dr O'Reilly's international reputation as a genuinely independent newspaper owner, Raymond Louw of the Freedom of Expression Institute said of all "international newspaper moguls" Dr O'Reilly had developed a reputation of not interfering in newspaper editorial policy and of allowing them to maintain their independence.

Mr Louw said it was probably a good thing that Dr O'Reilly was regarded as a friend of ANC leader Nelson Mandela. "He will probably be able to persuade the ANC and elements in it which want to nationalise newspapers, not to interfere with the Press," he said.

Concern about 'independence'

Sowetan 11/2/94

By Mzimasi Ngudle
Political Staff

FEARS about the future of editorial independence were expressed following the sale of a large chunk of Argus Newspapers shares to a foreign company.

Ireland's Independent Newspapers, an Irish newspaper group controlled by Mr Tony O'Reilly, will acquire 31 percent of Argus Newspapers, owners of *Sowetan*, *The Star* and other newspapers in the country.

O'Reilly told Argus editors that editorial independence would be assured after the transaction.

The Media Workers' Association of South Africa said it would only be satisfied by a written undertaking from the new owners not to interfere with editorial independence.

"Verbal assurances are simply not enough," acting Mswa president Mr Mathatha Tsedu said.

Tsedu said the union was opposed to foreign control of powerful instruments such as the media. "While unbundling is good, you don't unbundle and give to aliens," Tsedu said, adding that the union had asked for a meeting with Argus to discuss the matter.

Sowetan Editor Mr Aggrey Klaaste said the buy-out of Argus newspapers was inevitable because of the pressure on Argus Holdings to unbundle.

However, Klaaste said, a major problem

would be editorial independence. "While the new owners have promised that there will be such independence, nobody can read into the future (243) ~~243~~

The National Party said more care should be taken where non-South Africans acquired interests in our powerful media.

"There is always a danger, however, that somebody in Mr O'Reilly's position would succumb to the temptation of meddling in the newspapers' editorial policy.

"It is therefore essential that O'Reilly, a non-South African with strong ANC ties, gives assurances that he will not use his position to influence editorial policy to favour one of the political parties," NP spokesman Mr Danie du Plessis said.

Azapo spokesman Dr Gomolemo Mokae said although Azapo was not opposed to the notion of unbundling, Argus should not have sold to foreigners.

Mokae expressed doubts that editorial independence would be maintained.

Mokae said Azapo was shocked that Argus was growing "so insensitive to the feelings and plight of their workers".

"We learn that workers at *The Star* and *Sowetan* were not informed about the deals," Mokae said.

The ANC, whose president, Mr Nelson Mandela, is a close friend of O'Reilly, said it would only respond later.

PAC leaders were yesterday unavailable for comment after the news of the tragic death of army commander Sabelo Phama.

The SACP said it would first study the details and issue a statement later.

I'M LOOKING FOR SOWETAN

C

Newspapers' future shaky

WM 11-17/2/94 (243) From PAGE 2

The Anglo and JCI pension funds will retain a 14 percent stake in Argus Newspapers. The Argus Newspapers pension fund will have another eight percent. The rest, said Band, would comprise a spread of shareholders.

Argus Holdings will now be in the newspaper business only insofar as it has an interest through Afmed in knock-and-drop publisher Caxton and its stake in TML.

Argus Holdings owns 18 percent of profitable pay-TV provider M-Net. The intention of allowing South African newspaper groups shares in M-Net was to offset revenue losses from the erosion by TV of print-media adspend. It could be argued that the 18 percent should go to Argus Newspapers.

Band said the M-Net stake would not automatically be transferred to the newspaper group and that the issue was still under discussion.

Anglo has been uncomfortable about its ownership of the lion's share of the English-language press. The buyer had to be politically acceptable. O'Reilly, said to be a personal friend of Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk, meets this need.

Anglo's conditions of sale were that it would not sell to political interests, that the buyer would run the acquired newspapers as a business, and that hard cash had to be offered. O'Reilly fulfilled all these conditions.

Mandela is said to have spent Christmas at O'Reilly's home in the millionaire's playground of Lyford Cay, a 1 000-acre Caribbean hideaway for VIPs and international stars.

O'Reilly is chief executive of giant multinational Heinz food group. His investment in Zimbabwe, where he is said to be friendly with Premier Robert Mugabe, is through the food group

Newspapers' future uncertain

WM 11-17/2/94 (243)

The sale of 31 percent of Argus Newspapers to Irish billionaire Tony O'Reilly heralds a shake-up in the South African press, reports **Reg Rumney**

THE future of Times Media publications the *Cape Times*, *Natal Mercury* and *Pretoria News* are once again uncertain after the Argus newspaper unbundling deal announced this week.

Also, a valuable chunk of M-Net shareholding may change hands. The arrangement whereby the Argus company prints TML publications is understood to remain intact, but may cause some discomfort to the two separated companies in future.

TML managing director David Kovarsky said yesterday talks about the future of the coastal newspapers and the *Pretoria*

News, begun last month, will be revived.

TML owns the *Cape Times*, has a 30 percent stake in Natal Newspapers and 45 percent of the *Pretoria News*.

The proposed restructuring of TML's and Argus' newspaper interests was scotched after objections by the Competition Board and suspicions that the move was merely an attempt to consolidate the Argus company's hold on the daily newspaper market.

The implication is that once again they are up for sale to Argus.

The deal announced this week is an effective unbundling by Anglo American Corporation of its newspaper interests, with the floating off of the Argus newspaper stable into a separate company, with a 68 percent market share of the daily circulation market in the four largest cities of South Africa.

In the process Johannesburg Consolidated Investments and

Anglo will sell their 31 percent shareholding in the soon-to-be-listed Argus Newspapers company to Irish jet-setting tycoon Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers PLC for upwards of R125-million.

This is a strategic stake in the newspaper group since no other shareholder will have a similar amount. Billionaire O'Reilly (57) will probably want to test the water before trying to increase his stake.

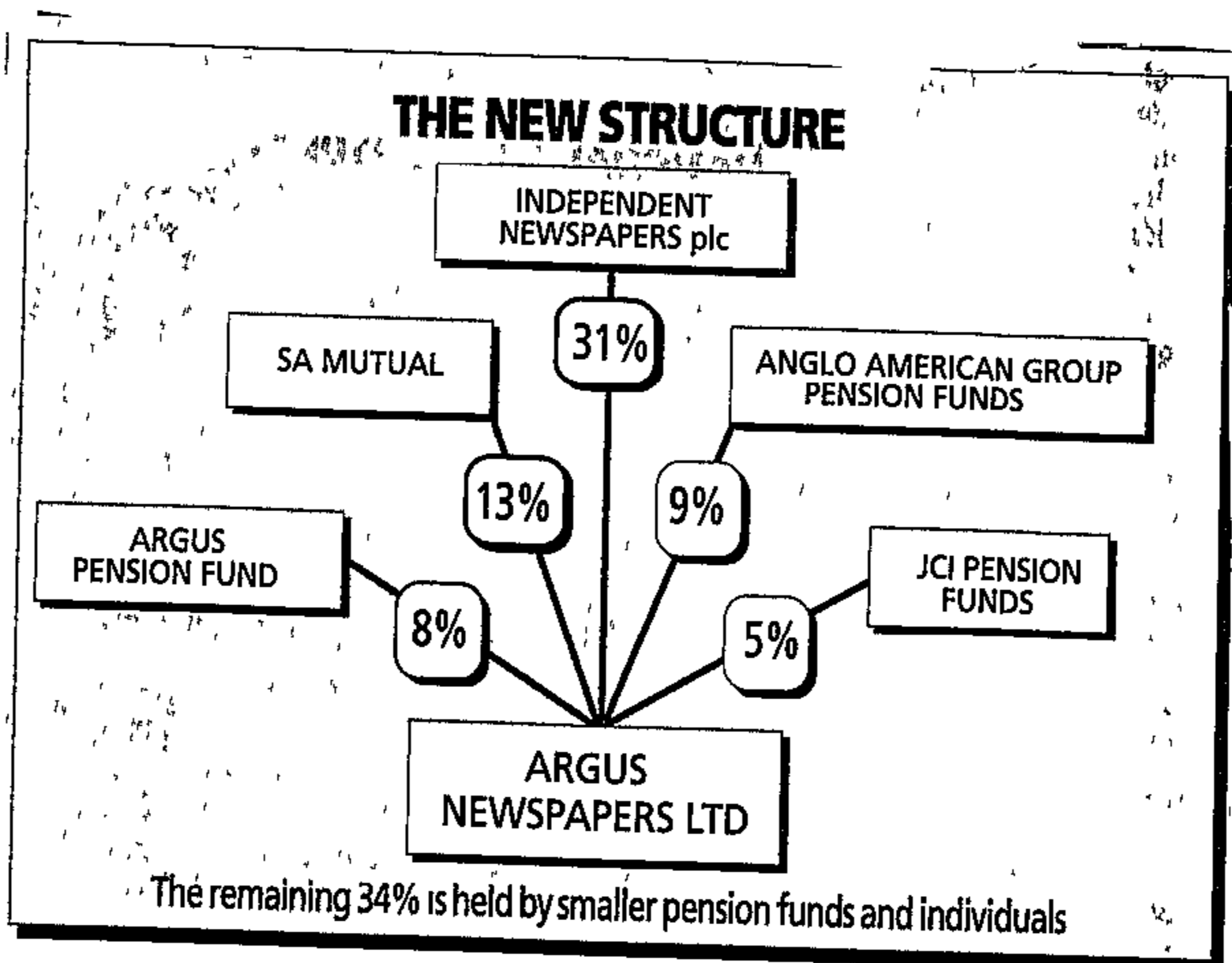
Argus Holdings managing director Doug Band, who has been driving the process of unbundling for the past few years, said yesterday O'Reilly did not have a history of wanting controlling shares in all his newspaper investments.

O'Reilly last week acquired a 25 percent stake in London daily newspaper *The Independent* for £18.4-million.

■ To PAGE 8

O'Reilly's NP Publishers owns 65 percent of the newspapers in Ireland and is the fourth largest newspaper group in Australia. O'Reilly is a director of the *Washington Post*.
He first visited South Africa in 1955 as a member of the British Lions rugby team. He was the record-breaking try scorer for the Lions when they split the series 2-2. He scored 16 tries during that tour.

O'Reilly has tried to identify an investment for Heinz in South Africa, but a proposed deal with Malbak is believed to have fallen through. He became Heinz president in 1972 and chief executive in 1978, taking the market capitalisation of the company from \$900-million to \$9-billion.



Step-by-step guide to Argus newspaper sale

BY JOHN SPIRA

Argus Holdings MD Doug Band characterised this week's Independent Newspapers (INP)/Argus Newspapers deal as simple but complex.

Simple to some, but obviously complex to a large majority — judging from reaction from elements, of the media and political parties.

Interpretation has ranged from an ANC takeover to one of subterfuge designed to ensure ongoing control of Argus Newspapers by Anglo American.

Here we offer a step-by-step explanation.

At present (prior to the deal being implemented in three months' time), Argus Holdings owns 100 percent of Argus

Newspapers.

The largest single shareholder in Argus Holdings is the JCI/Anglo American grouping, with its ownership of 31 percent of Argus Holdings.

Argus Holdings is to float off Argus Newspapers on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in the process it will proportionately allocate shares in Argus Newspapers to Argus Holdings shareholders. ~~(243)~~

Old Mutual, which owns 13 percent of Argus Holdings, will thus retain 13 percent of Argus Holdings and acquire a 13 percent stake in Argus Newspapers JCI/Anglo, which owns 31 percent of Argus Holdings, will receive the same treatment.

But the difference between the final relative positions of JCI/Anglo,

and Old Mutual and other Argus Holdings shareholders, is that JCI/Anglo will sell its newly acquired shares in Argus Newspapers to INP.

Upon conclusion of all elements of the deal, JCI/Anglo will have a 31 percent stake in Argus Holdings — but it won't have any shares in Argus Newspapers. ~~(243)~~

Through its 31 percent interest in Argus Holdings, JCI/Anglo will have a diluted interest in Times Media (publishers of the Sunday Times, Financial Mail and Business Day) via Argus Holdings' 37 percent stake in Times Media.

For INP, its 31 percent stake in Argus Newspapers makes it the largest shareholder, and thus in effective control.

Star 11/2/94

Workers not consulted – union

The SA Union of Journalists says it is astonished at the suddenness of the buyout of Argus Newspapers by Independent Newspapers plc and that Argus employees were not timeously informed or consulted.

SAUJ general secretary Karen Stander said yesterday that staff had legitimate concerns over

the security of their jobs, particularly in the light of the recent closure of the Sunday Star. (243)

The union welcomed the buyout as being in the interest of diversifying English-language newspaper ownership and reducing cross-ownership.

In spite of INP chair-

man Tony O'Reilly's apparent good track record internationally, the SAUJ had concerns about the editorial independence of Argus newspapers.

Stander said the union would take up its demand that the company sign a charter guaranteeing papers' editorial independence. — Sapa.

Irish wing scores again

■ Tony O'Reilly, the multi-millionaire Irish charmer who, in a surprise move this week, bought control of Argus Newspapers, has a motto that has sustained him throughout a dazzling business career: "Dress like the English, think like the Jews and talk like the Irish". Report by **ALAN ROBINSON** in London and **MICHAEL SHAFTO** in Johannesburg.

THERE is no prouder Irishman around than the mogul who first made his name as the innocently handsome 19-year-old wing who toured South Africa with the 1955 British Lions and who is said to have won more hearts than the record number of tries he scored.

Mr O'Reilly, now a much grayer and chubbier version of the auburn-locked flyer of 39 years ago, with a personal fortune estimated at more than R1 000 million, remains a fanatical supporter of the Irish rugby team.

He is said never to miss an international game, home or away, thus, next weekend, he will take his seat at Twickenham for the Five Nations fixture against England.

It was at Twickers that he said farewell to his playing career in some style, though not on the field of action. In those days

of genuine amateurism, when other players arrived for internationals by bus and by battered car, Mr O'Reilly drew up outside rugby headquarters in a chauffeur-driven Rolls Royce.

And he likes to tell the tale — at his own expense — of what happened when he fell on the ball in a desperate attempt to halt an England charge. As he lay there, he claims, an English voice rang out: "Don't just kick him, kick his bloody chauffeur as well!"

His glittering business career began in failure while still at school when he and a friend opened a penny lending library that folded when the first customer made off with the entire stock of six books. But that was one of the few reversals on a path that has gone from sugar to butter, baked beans to crystal glassware and taken in newspapers around the world and cable

ments covering a different aspect of his Irish activities.

The main interest at home, however, is Independent Newspapers, the company now duelling with the Mirror Group in a bid to resuscitate Newspaper Publishing, owners of the ailing London-based Independent and Independent on Sunday.

In that battle, Mr O'Reilly is up against another Irishman who could not be more different. Mirror Chief Executive David Montgomery is a dour, humourless Ulsterman with none of his rival's charisma and charm.

Mr O'Reilly has an admired reputation for not interfering in the editorial side of his newspapers, apart apparently from an insistence that they give no publicity to the IRA, to which he is fiercely opposed.

However, there is said to be some concern about his current attempts to gain a foothold in the Irish Free Press group, his main opposition in Eire. Mr O'Reilly is reported to be concerned that if he does not step in, old rival Rupert Murdoch might pounce to challenge him in his own backyard.

Many journalists vouch for the fact that he is not a hands-on proprietor. Contact with his editors is kept to a minimum with

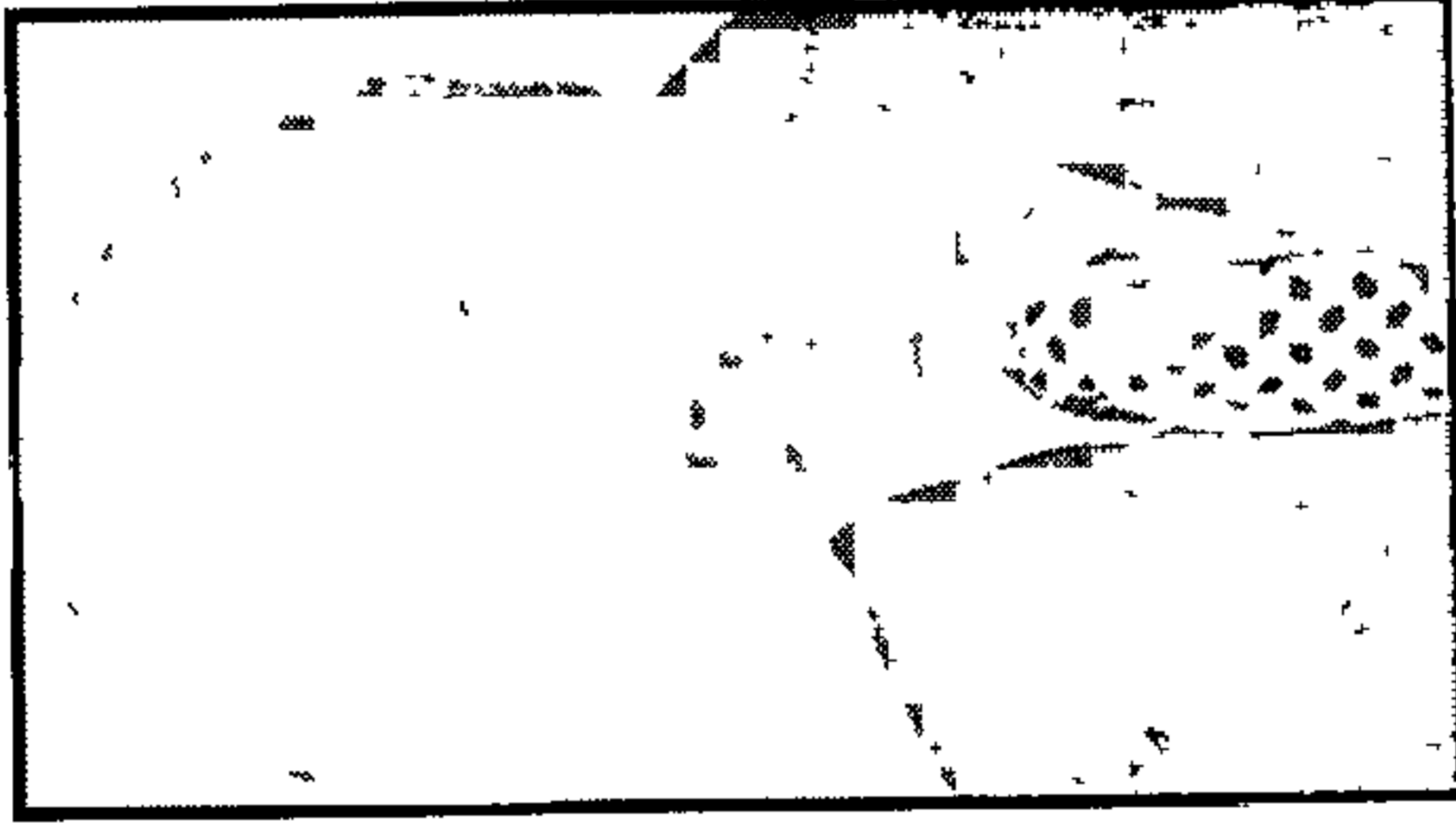
formal meetings held just once a year at his home in Castlemarfin.

In fact, one Irish Independent journalist who has been there since Mr O'Reilly took control in 1973, says he has only ever seen his boss at headquarters twice — and one of those occasions was to show the former Irish president and his wife around the building.

The news of his takeover stunned Argus staff. But they recovered quickly by trotting out a host of often seedy Irish jokes, such as: "There will no longer be Christmas bonuses, we'll be getting food parcels instead."

Former Springbok Des Sinclair who played in all the tests against the Lions in 1955 describes Mr O'Reilly as "an instinctively kind and generous man, never mind his millions". He points out that the dinner Mr O'Reilly gave at the Mount Nelson in Cape Town in 1991, to which rugby internationals past and present from all parts of the world were invited — a guest list of more than a hundred — was in fact arranged by him in honour of the late Dr Dame Cra-ven's 80th birthday.

With rich men you don't ask figures. But everyone involved agrees, "it must have cost a packet."



Mr O'Reilly ... business career began in failure.

television back home in Ireland. So diverse are Mr O'Reilly's interests, it is said that when he returns from his Heinz business in Pittsburgh, US, to Dublin, his secretary hands him six briefcases, each packed with docu-

Irish tycoon in Argus hot-seat

JOHN SPIRA

Weekend Argus Correspondent

IRISH media tycoon Tony O'Reilly, who heads up Independent Newspapers (INP), the group that is to acquire effective control of Argus Newspapers, will become chairman of the South African company

Also likely to join the Argus Newspapers board are his son Cameron (a kingpin in INP's Australian operations), INP's chief executive Liam Healy and its financial director James Parkinson

This will give INP four directors on an Argus Newspapers board which currently comprises 12 members, four of whom will probably bow out to make room for the Irish.

Since JCI and Anglo American will no longer have a stake in Argus Newspapers, their representatives will clearly be required to give way. This means that current chairman Doug Band, Vaughn Bray and Kennedy Maxwell will resign.

Argus Newspapers' executive directors John Featherstone, Ed Booth, Noel Coburn, Tony Howard, Graeme King and Rory Wilson will keep their positions

Accordingly, one of the three remaining

ARC 12/2/94 (243)
non-executive directors Colin Adcock, Peter McLean or Harvey Tyson will be asked to resign, or the board will be expanded by one extra director

JCI/Anglo will have no direct shareholding (nor any board representation), though there will be an indirect interest via the 14 percent stake in the company held by the two groups' pension funds. The only other shareholders of note are Old Mutual (13 percent) and the Argus pension fund (8 percent).

■ Reuter reports that Mr O'Reilly, who within a week has snapped up big chunks of South African and British newspapers, continued his buying spree yesterday when he took a majority stake in the London Press group, buying nearly 67 percent of Capital Newspapers Plc from British publishing company EMAP Plc and Stantonmill Ltd for £4.8 million (about R25 million) in cash.

Capital has nine paid-for titles and five free newspapers and Independent said it would be consolidating them with the Greater London and Essex Newspapers (Glen) group which it owns. Glen has two paid-for and six free papers.

■ See also SATURDAY FOCUS-2, page 14.

They're watching every move!

(243) ARG 12/12/94

■ The Nat establishment is toning down its attack on the Argus Newspapers' new Irish connection — but Tony O'Reilly will be closely watched for any sign of pushing a pro-ANC line **DAVID BREIER** of the Weekend Argus Political Staff reports

THE storm in an Irish coffee glass is abating after the Nats suggested your favourite family newspaper and its sister publications were about to become ANC propaganda sheets
Within hours of this week's dramatic announcement that Irish magnate Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers (INP) was buying a controlling 31 per cent share in Argus Newspapers,

the Nat Press came out with all guns blazing. But now they are adopting a wait-and-see attitude
"Footsold for ANC friend in the English-language media," trumpeted the headline in Naspers flagship *Die Burger*
Naspers executive chairman Ton Vosloo commented that Dr O'Reilly with his "outspoken ANC sympathies" would have to be watched.

But the heat has died down after repeated assurances from Dr O'Reilly and his son Cameron that they do not interfere in editorial policy in their Irish and Australian papers

Mr Vosloo told Weekend Argus that "the jury is still out" on the issue, suggesting he would reserve judgment

"He embraces nationalistic leaders like Robert Mugabe and now Mr Mandela," Mr Vosloo said of Dr O'Reilly "It is typical

of the Irish to be for the underdog

"But I feel a bit uncomfortable with foreign media buying up shareholdings in the South African media which is active in politics," said Mr Vosloo.

Asked why he thought a magnate should show an interest in buying into South African newspapers which did not make vast profits, Mr Vosloo said "You get a few big players like Rupert Murdoch, Conrad Black and Kerry Packer with massive egos. They want to be up there in the big league. It gives them a feeling of power. Maybe it is part of their personality"

The attack on Dr O'Reilly's reputed pro-ANC sympathies is based largely on the fact that he flew ANC leader Nelson Mandela to his private pad in the Bahamas for a holiday. And the O'Reillys have never actually

denied they have a soft spot for the ANC

Dr O'Reilly is known to be on good terms with a number of world leaders — including President De Klerk

Ex-Rand Daily Mail editor Raymond Louw, a member of the Freedom of Expression Institute, says "Dr O'Reilly has a reputation of not interfering in newspapers and of allowing them to maintain their independence"

"He has given that assurance and I can't see editors of the Argus group allowing themselves to be ANC mouthpieces"

Mr Louw said it was probably a good thing Dr O'Reilly was a friend of Mr Mandela as he would be able to persuade the ANC and its elements that favoured nationalisation of the Press not to interfere with newspapers

But Mr Louw cautioned "One has to be aware of this relation-

ship and be vigilant about it. Not only Argus Group editors and staff have to be vigilant, but people outside the group must be vigilant too"

Mr Louw pointed out that Argus's previously Anglo American/JCI "benign ownership" was also friendly to the ANC

Shortly after news of the deal broke, Nat spokesman Marthinus van Schalkwyk said "It is not a secret that the ANC wants to start its own paper, but all the feasibility studies show that this is very hard. Therefore we look with concern at this development. We ask whether in the absence of their own paper this is not another channel for them"

But Cameron O'Reilly, the magnate's son, who helps run his Australian interests, said it would be commercial "suicide" to make newspapers support one party if they depended on editorial independence for credibility.

How the deal was done

Star 12/2/94

ARGUS Holdings chairman Doug Band tells MANDY JEAN WOODS about a heavily accented Afrikaans phone message in mid-January.

MOST visitors to South Africa spend their money on anything from clothes and jewellery to curios. Tony O'Reilly is different. When he jetted in on a three-day visit this week he spent some R125 million buying South Africa's largest newspaper group, Argus Newspapers.

It took only 30 minutes for three executives to agree in principle to the deal. It then took another 25 hours to prepare the short and concise contract that would irrevocably link Ireland's Independent Newspapers plc, which O'Reilly owns, and Argus Newspapers.

"It was just Vaughn Bray, Tony O'Reilly and myself," Argus Holdings chairman Doug Band said this week, reliving the high moments of the stunning deal. "Once we had agreed in principle, it was just a matter of tying up the loose ends."

The trio, backed up at times by up to 18 bankers, lawyers and executives, were cloistered for the duration of the negotiations at a venue in Sandton. The aim was to keep O'Reilly's presence away from prying eyes.

By the time the smoke had cleared, O'Reilly was on course to become the proud owner of a 31 percent shareholding in Argus Newspapers



SEALING THE DEAL. JCI chairman Pat Retief (left), Argus Holdings chairman Doug Band, and Independent Newspapers' Tony O'Reilly and his son Cameron. ● Photograph: KEN OOSTERBROEK

O'Reilly and Argus started negotiations two years ago

But the foundation for that heady moment had been laid almost two years before by the same core of executives.

"We had asked to meet him to discuss a possible deal," Band said. "We flew to Ireland in December 1991 and held a lengthy and serious meeting discussing the future of newspapers and, in particular, the Argus Group."

Nothing came of those talks. Periodic contact, however, continued.

"I sent Tony a fax about mid-January to tell him that it would be worthwhile having another chat if he was still interested in investing in South Africa," O'Reilly's response was almost immediate, Band said.

"I got this curious message on my answering machine about a day later. It was O'Reilly, mumbling an Afrikaans accent, saying 'Die rookspan baba from die Britse red-head baby from the British team phoned'."

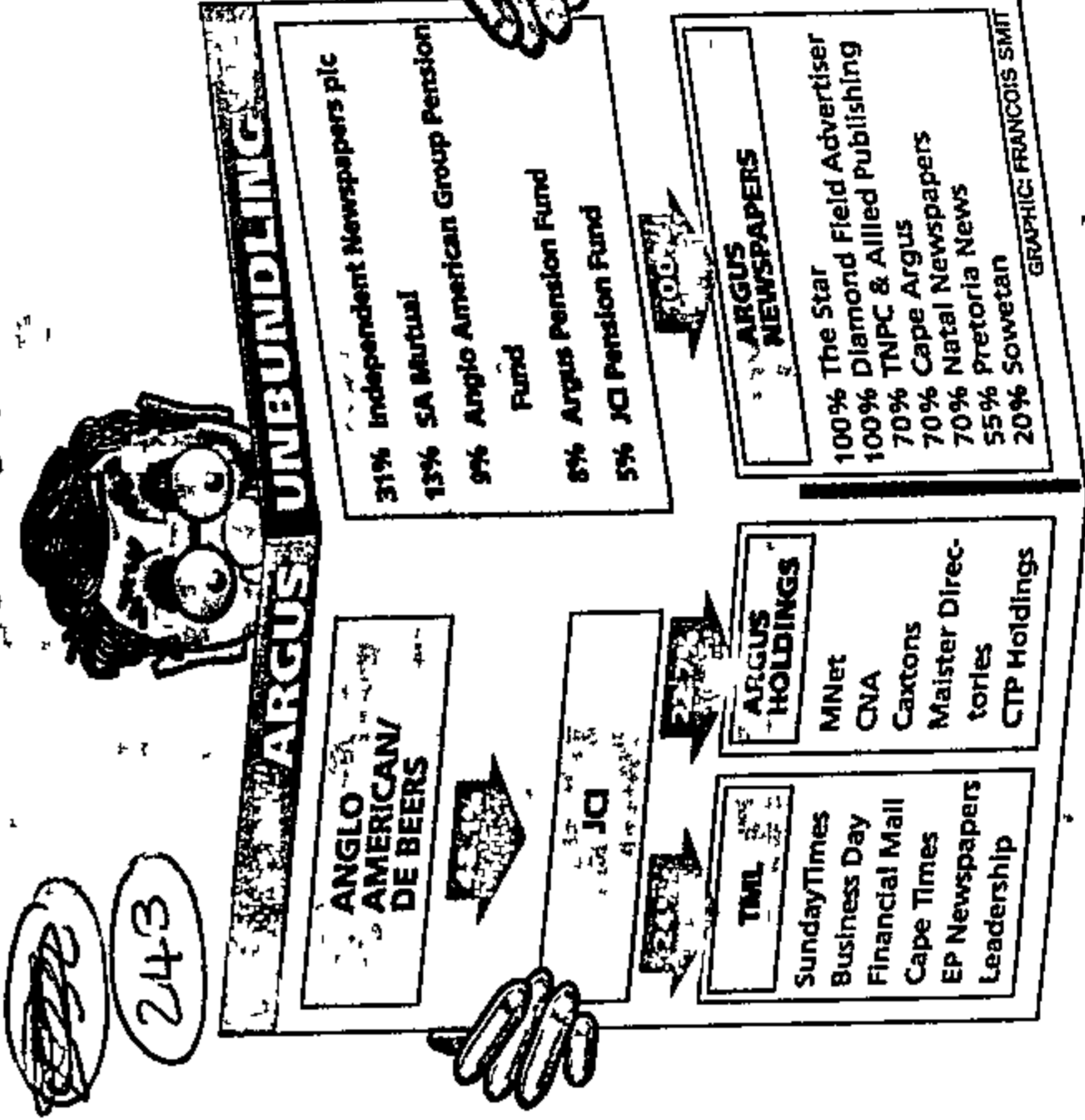
In the first week of February, merchant bankers and financial wizards from both companies gathered in Johannesburg to thrash out the financial details.

O'Reilly, in Australia at the time, was scheduled to fly to South Africa on Sunday. But a mid-air accident in his private Gulf Stream jet delayed him, the windshield cracked, fortunately not injuring anyone. But it did necessitate a

return to Singapore and a rerouting to Johannesburg on a scheduled airline, Band said.

The rest is history. "It was a simple deal, really, so it shouldn't have taken a long time. And don't forget it was based on a two-year-long relationship. Tony was well acquainted with the Argus Newspaper Group. It was just a matter of deciding whether or not to do the deal."

The oil that greased the deal, it could be said, was the chemistry between the two parties. O'Reilly has, by his own admission, "a deep, abiding love" for South Africa which began back in 1955 when he first came to the country as a British Lions rugby player.



GRAPHIC: FRANCOIS SMIT

MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Correspondent

NELSON Mandela has made a firm commitment to Press freedom and the importance of free expression as a core value of democracy.

Mr Mandela was speaking at the opening session of the 43rd general assembly of the International Press Institute in Cape Town, which is being attended by more than 500 editors and media executives from around the world.

Mr Mandela said the African National Congress had nothing to fear from criticism, adding that Press freedom was vital in tempering the appetite of governments for amassing power at the expense of citizens.

"The free flow of ideas and information is one of the objectives we will strive for in the constituent assembly that will emerge from the forthcoming democratic elections

"We consider the maintenance and extension of the diversity thus far attained in the South African media to be of vital importance

"South Africa can ill-afford to carry over into the re-regulated electronic media the huge imbalances that pervaded the print sector until quite recently.

"Without being prescriptive, one of the tasks of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which is to be established, should be the setting out of clear guidelines to ensure a measure of diversity truly reflective of the rich tapestry of races, colours, creeds and cultures that is South Africa."

He lamented the lack of diversity in the media in South Africa, but welcomed the acquisition of The Sowetan, South Africa's largest daily newspaper, by a consortium of African business interests and the transfer of Argus Newspapers from the effective control of JCI and Anglo-American

"With the exception of The Sowetan, the senior editorial staffs of all South Africa's daily newspapers are cast from the same racial mould. They are white, they are male, they are from a middle-class background, they tend to share a very similar life experience

"It is clearly inequitable that in a country whose population is overwhelmingly black, the principal players in the media have no knowledge of the life experience of that majority"

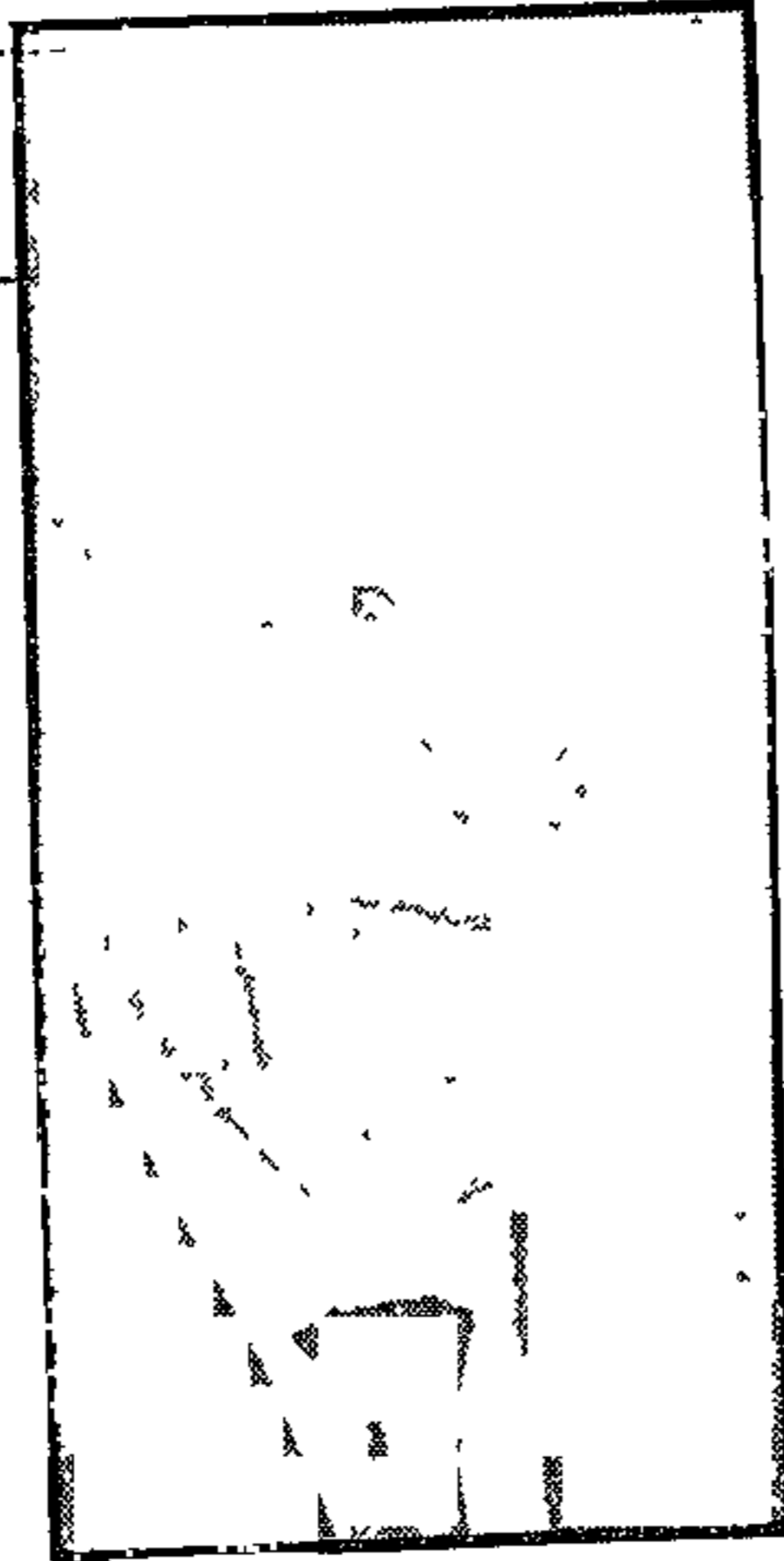
Mr Mandela praised the "alternative Press", which "when the proprietors of the mainstream newspapers preferred to accept a shameful regime of rigorous self-censorship rather than stand up to a repressive government... kept the flag of Press freedom aloft"

In a firm commitment to Press freedom, Mr Mandela said truth "can be arrived at only through the untrammelled contest between and among competing opinions, in which as many viewpoints as possible are given a fair hearing

"It has therefore always been our contention that laws, mores, practices and prejudices that place constraints on freedom of expression are a disservice to society. Indeed these are the devices employed by falsehood to lend it strength in its unequal contest with truth"

Mr Mandela said a critical, independent and investigative Press was the lifeblood of any democracy

● See page 4



Nelson
Mandela

□ It's a cornerstone of democracy, ANC leader tells IPI conference

ARG 14/12/94 (21/3)

Mandela pledges freedom of Press

Star 14/2/94

SA press freedom should not be taken for granted

■ STAFF REPORTER

The South African media was freer than at any other time in the country's history, but that freedom should not be taken for granted as many restrictive laws were still on the statute books, despite falling out of use, warned editor-in-chief of The Star Richard Steyn.

Delivering the opening address at the 43rd general assembly of the International Press Institute (IPI) in Cape Town today, Steyn said: "We are about to be protected by a Bill of Rights which enshrines freedom of speech and free media, but those rights are weakly defined and sub-

ject to various limitations

"Much lip service is paid by our political parties to freedom of expression, but on the ground journalists come under regular attack.

"I therefore urge IPI and other organisations to continue to monitor press freedom in the new society as closely as they did in the old."

He told delegates their visit to South Africa was timely. (243)

"Our tortured history has bequeathed us immense human and social problems, and presented us with some daunting problems."

Recognising the political foresight of President

de Klerk and ANC president Nelson Mandela whom he termed, "two remarkable South Africans", Steyn described the local situation by quoting an American academic:

"South Africa is not a nation, but a collection of tribes seeking to find a common destiny.

"It is a country where every conflict of the post-war world may be encountered: colonialism versus anti-colonialism, First World versus Third World; capitalist versus socialist; haves versus have-nots; black versus white; industrial versus rural.

"It is a place to stir the soul, not to test the pieties."

Strengthen freedom of press — FW

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE freedom of the press should be strengthened and entrenched in South Africa, President F W de Klerk said yesterday.

He also believed the freedom of the press should be more strongly entrenched when the new constitution was finally negotiated. ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela said South Africa media law remained "largely un-reconstructed, despite our interim constitution".

"The free flow of ideas and information is one of the objectives we will strive for in the constituent assembly that will emerge from the forthcoming democratic election," he said.

Mr De Klerk and Mr Mandela stressed their commitment to press freedom at the opening of the 43rd congress of the International Press Institute in Cape Town.

Earlier, the South African representative of the IPI board and editor of the Star, Mr Richard Steyn, said the South Africa media were freer than ever, but that freedom

should not be taken for granted, as many restrictive laws remained.

The bill of rights enshrined freedom of speech and free media, but these rights were weakly defined and subject to a number of limitations.

"Much lip service is paid by our political parties to freedom of expression, but on the ground, journalists come under regular attack," Mr Steyn said.

Mr De Klerk said in his speech that he agreed with Mr Steyn. The freedom of the

press should be strengthened and entrenched.

People who remembered the bad old days of the states of emergency might find it ironic that the government was now such an ardent supporter of the ideal of a free press.

"We know how essential a free press is and will be — to the protection of the basic rights guaranteed in our interim constitution."

"We support this guarantee precisely because we know from our own experience

how counter-productive any attempt to interfere with the free flow of information can be," Mr De Klerk said.

Mr Mandela said the freedom of expression, of which press freedom was a crucial aspect, was among the core values of democracy that the ANC had striven for.

"A critical, independent and investigative press is the lifeblood of any democracy," he said.

● Call for defence of media — Page 4
● SABC 'surprised' at FW's public attack — Page 4

(243)CTIS/2/94

'Alternative press: Heroes of journalism'

(243)
CT 15/2/94

A TRADITION of bold, probing journalism had been pioneered by the few courageous publications that constituted the alternative press, ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela said yesterday

Speaking at the International Press Institute (IPI) conference, he also said that, with the exception of the Sowetan, the senior editorial staffs of all South African daily newspapers were cast in the same racial mould

"They are white, they are male, they are from a middle-class background, they share a similar life experience"

Such people had no knowledge of the lives of South Africa's overwhelming black majority, he said

Mr Mandela said that while the mainstream press "preferred to accept a shameful regime of rigorous self-censorship rather than stand up to a repressive government", the alternative press had flown the flag of press freedom

Editors enjoyed greater freedom today thanks to them, he said

His words caused a stir as the IPI has previously honoured commercial press staff for pursuing press freedom

It's a dog's life for media

(243)
ET 15/2/94

Political Staff

PRESIDENT F W de Klerk yesterday caused the 475 delegates from 40 countries to the International Press Institute to chuckle when he compared a free press with keeping a large dog.

He said society undoubtedly needed the media to play a dynamic watchdog role.

"The media must be unleashed and should be able to patrol the national property in a free and unrestricted manner. They must be able to sniff out corruption and relentlessly follow the spoor of a hot story or a good disclosure.

"They must, by barking or howling, be able to alert the household to any threat lurking in the undergrowth.

"And despite the fact that I, like most politicians, have felt their teeth, they should never be muzzled."

But, Mr De Klerk added, there was the downside.

"Large dogs sometimes bay at the moon and disturb the neighbourhood. They bound into the house with muddy paws and upset delicate and valuable crockery.

"They can be obsessed by the scent of sex. From time to time they invade the privacy of the neighbour's garden and, alas, they have been known to bite innocent passers-by," Mr De Klerk said.

All this made up the necessary tension between the media and the government, he explained

CAPE

'Political parties must defend Press freedom'

Staff Reporter

A RESOLUTION calling on all political parties taking part in the April 27 election to commit themselves publicly to Press freedom has been adopted by the International Press Institute and other media organisations

The signatories stated that no democratic country could guarantee its people freedom from fear and exploitation without a "free and unfettered Press".

They believed the Press — whether print or electronic — should provide people with facts needed to participate effectively in a democracy and that the Press should also provide the most open forum possible for opinion and expression.

They therefore called on all parties seeking power in the coming elections — and the present and future governments — to commit themselves and their supporters to:

● Defend the right of mem-

bers of the media to inquire, publish and distribute freely and without interference, now and in the future

● Uphold journalists' rights of access to all public areas, officials, government and other events, as well as other aspects of the public's business, without intimidation or threat

● Oppose all moves, measures or restrictions which may obstruct the development and distribution of a diversified Press

● Encourage and promote the growth of a courageous, professional and independent Press.

The signatories included the chief executives of the International Press Institute, Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers, the International Federation of the Periodical Press, and media associations in America, Japan, Norway and Portugal.

(243) ARCTIS/2/94

Pledge to keep eye on new SA

Staff Reporter

(243)
APR 15/2/94
INTERNATIONAL media representatives will visit South Africa within a year to ensure that a new government elected after April 27 is upholding a free Press, says the director of the International Press Institute (IPI), Johann Fritz.

At the opening session of the IPI general assembly, Mr Fritz said good intentions had gone sour in other emerging democracies.

"Those in government, in some cases, withdrew the Press freedom in practice they had granted in principle."

South Africa would become a focal point of the international media in the coming months.

"The international community hopes that your great democratic transformation will bring peace, prosperity, and justice to all its people."

The institute wanted South Africa's political experiment to succeed and it wanted the South African Press to be free.

"In order for all this to happen, the promises you make now will have to be kept by the South African governments of the future.

"The institute and representatives of other media organisations taking part in this conference will closely monitor the situation and will return within a year to see that this new society indeed guarantees a genuine and democratic freedom of its media," Mr Fritz said.

Brain drain 'blown out of proportion' ⁽²⁴³⁾

ARGUS 15/2/94

□ Whites should go, says PAC's De Lille

Staff Reporters

INSTEAD of blowing the white brain drain out of proportion, the South African media should rather encourage whites "to leave to create space for the majority", says top PAC negotiator Patricia de Lille

Addressing the International Press Institute conference today, Ms De Lille also suggested that PAC leader Clarence Makwetu had not been invited to address delegates because "you do not want to listen to a resource that will be telling you the truth".

This was typical of the liberal Press, she said.

There had never been Press freedom in South Africa "for the simple reason that the mass media is in the grip of about four conglomerates"

The "alternative" Press, funded by overseas backers, was also not independent and "cannot be said to be unbiased because, with little exception, it follows a particular party line"

She challenged the media to say if it was prepared to "see Africans beyond stereotypes"

Ms De Lille said that the PAC regarded people as Africans if they owed their loyalty to Africa and were prepared to accept a democratic rule of an African majority

"We guarantee no minority rights because we think in terms of individuals and not groups."

KwaZulu spokesman Ben Ngubane told the conference that negotiations on the transition to a new South Africa were no longer merely about federalism but about group and national conflicts.

He said that while he firmly endorsed democracy and the protection of individual rights "historical imperatives are just as important"

"We as the Zulu people have a vested and deep interest in territory. We are a monarchy... it is in the hearts and minds of our people and we long for restoration."



He said the Zulu people had thought that it would be possible to have a federal dispensation in which all the people in Natal could be accommodated but the results of the KwaZulu-Natal indaba, which laid the basis for this, were rejected

He accused the Press of failing to focus on the "nature of the South African problem", which had much to do with group and national interests

Dr Ngubane proposed that the constitutional dispute should be subjected to international mediation

Minister of State Enterprise Dawie de Villiers said the interim constitution represented a "fair compromise" between the parties, and the government believed it had the support of the overwhelming majority of South Africans

Dr De Villiers was standing in for Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer.

The interim constitution was not perfect but provided a good base, he said

"What we have achieved is nothing short of a miracle"

He said the difficulty with the Freedom Alliance was that it had no unified position and the government was beginning to question the will of the alliance to resolve outstanding constitutional differences.

The door was not closed and they were prepared to look at the question over and over.

"But there is no way we can prolong the uncertainty of this country any longer. Time is now of the essence."

Mohamed Valli Moosa, head of the ANC's negotiating committee, paid tribute to the media and said it had a fundamental role in shaping the thinking of people all over the world

The ANC believed legislation still on the statute books restricting Press freedom should be scrapped, including Section 29 of the Internal Security Act.

"And we will support that at the Transitional Executive Council."

He described the interim constitution as "a settlement package which constitutes the terms of surrender of an undemocratic regime to the forces of democracy"

But those who claimed they were staying out of the process because of the lack of true federalism were not being honest

"The conflict really revolves around 'what is in it for me?'"

(News by Michael Morris and John Yeld, 122 St George's Mall, Cape Town)

SADF to have re-
an invitation to be re-

...SADF troops army is under the man who
were already billeted to started the process (of ne-
gether in camps, he said. gotiations)." — Sapa.

Wise investment on the stock market
can help you achieve many of your life's
dreams But let's face it, investment success

SA Press freedom 'critical' — Mandela

CAPE TOWN — A critical, independent and investiga-
tive Press was the lifeblood of any democracy and had to
be free from state interference, ANC president Nelson
Mandela said yesterday, addressing an International
Press Institute gathering. *Biday*

He said the Press needed constitutional protection so it
could protect the rights of citizens. "It is only such a free
Press that can temper the appetite of any government to
amass power at the expense of the citizen."

Mandela welcomed recent efforts to diversify and
unbundle the local Press, but said it remained to be seen
how these changes would affect the diversity of view-
points and how they would address previous imbalances.

Mandela said SA could ill afford saddling the re-
regulated electronic media with the huge imbalances
that had pervaded the print sector until recently.

Meanwhile, President FW de Klerk said it was a
matter of great concern that the ANC was trying to
secure programming influence over the SABC.

He said this had first become apparent in plans to
appoint senior ANC members to the SABC board.

De Klerk said SA society and the negotiation process
had benefited immensely from the "great upwelling" of
debate in the country's media. *(243)*

"The media must be completely unleashed and should
be able to patrol the national territory unrestricted."

Reacting, the ANC described De Klerk's allegations as
"pathetic" and questioned his use of a forum such as the
International Press Institute for "cheap party political
propaganda". *15/2/94*

SABC chairman Ivy Matsepe-Cassaburi said the SABC
board had no knowledge of any journalist being influ-
enced or intimidated by any political organisation

Matsepe-Cassaburi said the SABC board had initiated
an editorial code of conduct to which all editors and
reporters subscribed.

SABC CE Wynand Harmse said he was "upset and
concerned" that De Klerk had publicly raised such ques-
tions without consulting the SABC board.

Report by E Kemp and E Oelofse, 141 Commissioner St, Jhb

Two of South Africa's key political actors, Nelson Mandela and F W de Klerk, yesterday gave their views on the press and SABC to a gathering in Cape Town of the world's leading journalists. Michael Morris reports



I.P.I

In search of media to serve the truth

Star 15/2/94

ANC president Nelson Mandela and President de Klerk have both committed themselves to press freedom as part of South Africa's emerging democracy

They were speaking yesterday at the opening session of the 43rd general assembly of the International Press Institute (IPI), which is being attended by more than 500 editors and media executives from around the world. However, the two leaders differed sharply on the need for the transformation of the media.

De Klerk sharply criticised the ANC for attempting to exert undue influence over the SABC

"We shall give serious attention to the implications of this situation in the days and weeks ahead," he warned.

De Klerk said it had become apparent at the time of the appointment of the corporation's new board last year that a sizeable proportion of the candidates on the original list were prominent members of the information and communication structures of one of the parties participating in the election.

It had become evident that his efforts to create a "more balanced" board to ensure impartiality had not succeeded.

"There is a political phalanx actively involved in efforts to introduce a biased agenda into the SABC's programming

"There are well-substantiated reports of television journalists receiving direct instructions from the propaganda department of the party involved.

"A journalist who refused to carry out the party's instructions was told that he need not report for duty at the SABC after the election.

"The so-called Democratic Education Broadcasting Initiative, which is supposed to educate voters for the election, is in effect — according to proper analysis by media experts —



Diversity needed

Nelson Mandela said senior editorial staff on South African newspapers were almost uniformly white, middle-class males.

SABC

being abused to influence voters through its subtextual content."

De Klerk added: "It is, in the new South Africa that we are building, inherently unhealthy that so much media power should be concentrated in a virtual monopoly under the control of the State and under the threat of political intimidation.

Tension between the media and the government was necessary "if either side is too happy with the relationship, the chances are that there is something wrong either with the media or with the government."

Mandela said the ANC had nothing to fear from criticism, and that press freedom was vital in tempering the appetite of governments for amassing power at the expense of citizens.

He focused his attention on the need to transform the South African media and to inject into them more diversity

"Without being prescriptive, one of the tasks of the Independent Broadcasting Authority,

The same holds true for the upper echelons of the electronic media, again with a very few recent exceptions

"While no one can object in principle to editors with such a profile, what is disturbing is the threat of one-dimensionality this poses for our media.

It is clearly inequitable that, in a country whose population is overwhelmingly black, the principal players in the media have no knowledge of the life experience of that majority."

He praised the "alternative press", which "when the proprietors of the mainstream newspapers preferred to accept a shameful regime of rigorous self-censorship rather than stand up to a repressive government kept the flag of press freedom aloft

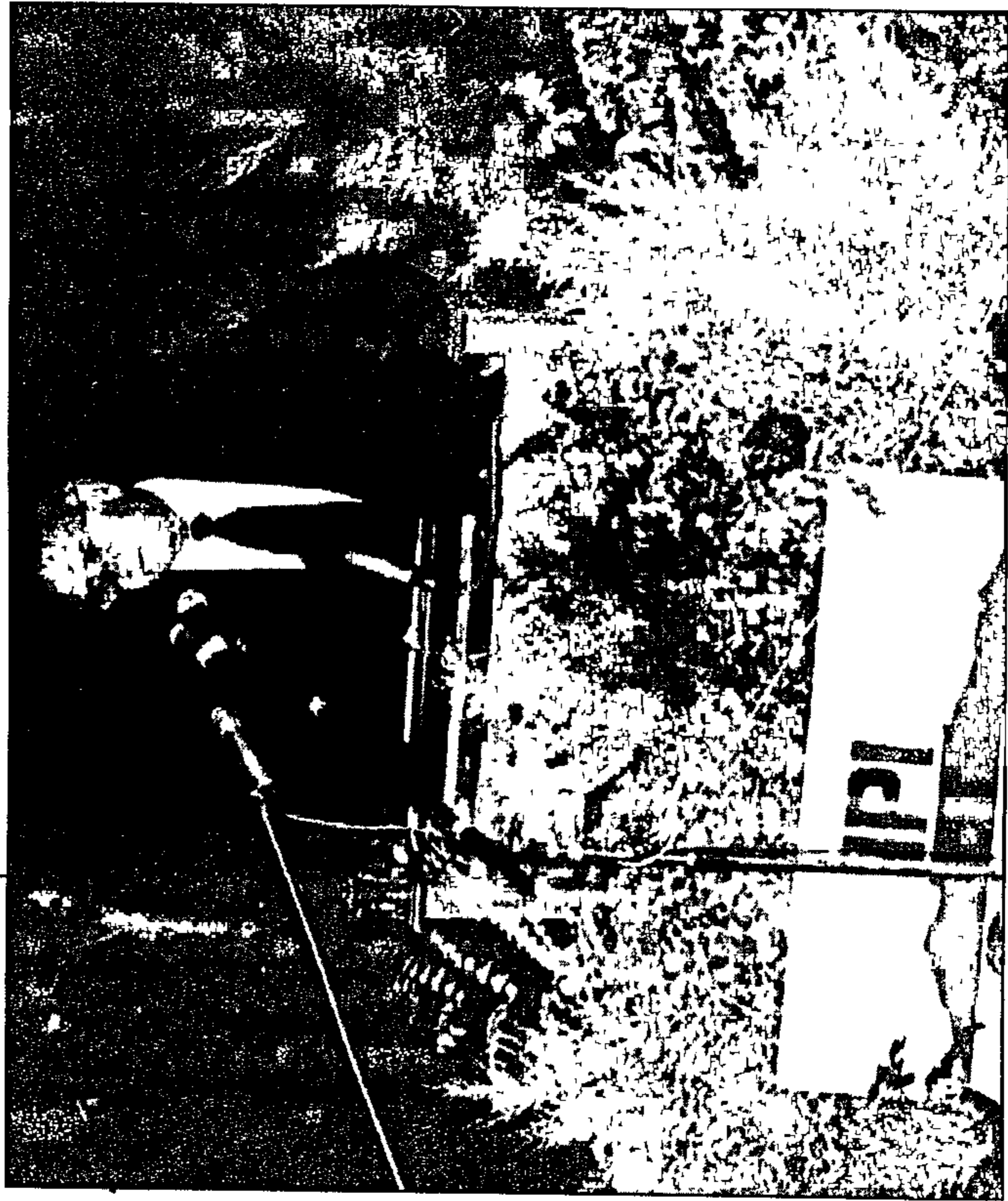
In a firm commitment to press freedom, Mandela said truth could be arrived at only through the untrammelled contest between and among competing opinions, in which as many viewpoints as possible are given a fair and equal hearing

"It has therefore always been our contention that laws, mores, practices and prejudices that place constraints on freedom of expression are a disservice to society. Indeed these are the devices employed by falsehood to lend it strength in its unequal contest with truth.

Mandela said a critical, independent and investigative press was the lifeblood of any democracy. It was vital that the press was free from State interference, was economically independent and enjoyed the protection of the constitution.

"Only such a free press can temper the appetite of any government to amass power at the expense of the citizen.

"It is only such a free press that can be the vigilant watchdog of the public interest against the temptation on the part of those who wield it to abuse that power."



"Biased agenda" . . . President de Klerk told the International Press Institute meeting that efforts were being made to manipulate SABC-TV programming. PICTURES: THE ARGUS

Call for defence of media

CT 15/2/94

Political Staff

243

POLITICAL parties in South Africa should defend the right of the media to inquire, publish and distribute freely and without interference, eight of the world's major newspaper publishing groups and Unesco said yesterday

This was contained in a resolution of the 43rd general assembly of the International Press Institute in the city

"We call on all parties and organisations to express their commitment publicly and unequivocally, and to impress on their supporters the need to uphold press freedom in letter and spirit, in the interests of democracy in South Africa," the resolution said

It was signed by the chief executives of the International Press Institute, International Federation of Newspaper Publishers, International Federation of the Periodical Press, Inter-American Press Association, Japanese Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association, Newspaper Publishers Association, Norwegian Press Association and Portuguese Sociedade Jornalística Editorial

They said political parties should "uphold journalists' rights of access to all public areas, officials, government and other events, as well as other aspects of the public's business, without intimidation or threat"

FW worried about ANC in SABC

Sowetan 15/2/94

■ UNDUE INFLUENCE Pressmen

told of 'intimidation campaign':

IT WAS a matter of great concern that the African National Congress was trying to secure influence over the SABC, State President Mr FW de Klerk said yesterday

Addressing the opening session of the International Press Institute's 43rd general assembly in Cape Town, De Klerk said this was first apparent in plans to appoint a number of senior ANC members to the SABC board

"When I resisted this, I was heavily criticised. But it seems my efforts have not succeeded. (243)

De Klerk said a "political phalanx" was trying to influence programming at the SABC and a campaign of subtle intimidation had been started against journalists and managers who did not comply

Journalists who resisted instructions to portray events in a certain light had been told not to return to the SABC after the forthcoming election.

There was immediate response from the SABC board, with chairman Dr Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri saying the corpora-

tion had no knowledge of any journalist being influenced or intimidated by any political organisation

She said the SABC board had initiated an editorial code of conduct to which all editors and reporters subscribed "The editorial code defends the rights of journalists against any interference, but also acknowledges the need to build democracy in South Africa"

SABC chief executive Mr Wynand Harmse said he was "upset and concerned" that De Klerk had publicly raised such questions without consult-

ing the SABC board

"We would have expected the State President to pass any such information on to the board before publicly raising it at an international conference of the media"

De Klerk also said developments during the next 72 days would determine whether South Africa succeeded in bringing about order, peace and stability or whether the country slid into conflict and chaos. — Sapa

(Report by E Kemp, 141 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg)

Call to back press freedom

Star 15/2/94

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — A resolution calling on all political parties taking part in the April election to commit themselves publicly to press freedom has been adopted by the International Press Institute and other organisations

The signatories stated that no democratic country could guarantee its people freedom from fear and exploitation without a free and unfettered press

They believed the press — whether print or electronic — should provide people with facts needed to participate effectively

PARTIES seeking power in the April election are urged to commit themselves and their supporters to certain rights (243)

in a democracy and with the most open forum possible for opinion and expression

They therefore called on all parties seeking power in the forthcoming election — and the present and future governments

— to commit themselves and their supporters to.

■ Defend the right of members of the media to inquire, publish and distribute freely and without interference, now and in the future

■ Uphold journalists' rights of access to all public areas, officials, government and other events, as well as other aspects of the public's business, without intimidation or threat.

■ Oppose all moves, measures or restrictions that might obstruct the development and distribution of a diversified press

"We call on all parties and or-

ganisations to express this commitment publicly and unequivocally, and to impress on their supporters the need to uphold press freedom in letter and spirit, in the interests of democracy in South Africa."

The signatories included the chief executives of the International Press Institute, Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers, the International Federation of the Periodical Press, and media associations in America, Japan, Norway and Portugal.

Star 15/12/94
**'Press freedom
to be monitored'**

Cape Town — International media representatives will visit South Africa within a year to ensure that a new government elected after April 27 is upholding a free press, says International Press Institute director Johann Fritz

(243)

Fritz said that originally good intentions had gone sour in other emerging new democracies.

"Those in government, in some cases, withdrew the press freedom they had granted in principle.

"The International Press Institute and other media organisations will closely monitor the situation to see that this new society indeed guarantees freedom of its media," Fritz said. — Own Correspondent.

TREC 'must ensure freedom of press'

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE Transitional Executive Council and the Independent Electoral Commission should investigate all legislation limiting the freedom of the press, the Democratic Party and the Black Sash said yesterday.

The DP's caucus chairman, Mr Colin Eglin, said at the IPI congress in Cape Town yesterday that the TEC would do "well to take steps to expunge from the statute book those restrictions on the press which are relics of the bad old South Africa."

Contrary

The Black Sash said in a statement, issued by Mrs Mary Burton on behalf of its Legislation Watch group, that some of the existing limitations on the press could be invoked during the pre-election period and others could be used to cloak government operations or the use of state funds during and after the election.

IPI

CAPE TOWN 1994

Relics of 'bad past' must go

"They are all contrary to the spirit as well as the letter of the Chapter on Fundamental Rights in the new, interim, constitution," she said.

On Monday, President F W de Klerk agreed that freedom of the press was not entrenched strongly enough in the transitional constitution and ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela said media law restrictions were "largely un-reconstructed, de-

CT16/2/94 (243)

spite our interim constitution". Mr Eglin and Mrs Burton said the TEC and IEC should take the initiative in this Mr Eglin said the laws still restricting the press included the Secret Services Act, the Petroleum Products Act, the Defence Act and sections of the Internal Security Act, including provisions for detention without trial.

Mrs Burton said the Black Sash noted that although legislation passed in the 1992 and 1993 parliamentary session had softened some of the severest restrictions on the dissemination of information, there were still provisions in the remaining statutes that curtailed the freedom of the press.

The Black Sash urged the TEC and IEC to turn their attention to this legislation as a matter of urgency.

"An investigation into all the laws which govern the freedom of information should be set in motion, with a view to cementing a coherent policy of accountable and transparent governance," Mrs Burton said.

'Media have to win back credibility'

THE media had to win back their credibility in the same way as the police, army and civil service had to re-establish theirs, Sowetan managing editor Mr Joe Thloloe said yesterday.

Speaking at a panel discussion on intimidation and violence, he said liberation movements had "succeeded beyond their wildest dreams" in discrediting social institutions.

"We should now consciously strive to destroy the myth that the media as they are run today are for the benefit of white capitalists only. It is going to take us years to win back the confidence of the ordinary man in the institutions of our society."

Star political editor Mr Shaun Johnson called for a manifesto by journalists to be addressed directly to the people over the heads of politicians — as a "pact or promise against

which our performance can be tested". This would help re-establish the public's confidence in the media.

He said the performance of journalists in the run-up to the election would directly determine how the media were regarded in future.

Tribute editor Mr Jon Qwelane said journalists themselves were partly to blame for political interference because some had at one stage

sided with political organisations, even becoming office-bearers.

Beeld assistant editor Mr Tim du Plessis said Afrikaans journalists were singled out by right-wing activists for threats and intimidation.

"It is ironic that those right-wingers who threaten and intimidate journalists are the same people who tell us there cannot be a free and fair election because of intimidation and violence" — Sapa

CT16/2/94 (243)

Tutu salutes press

CT 16/2/94

2143

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE media had helped to bring South Africa to the brink of a threshold of change, Archbishop Desmond Tutu said at the University of the Western Cape last night. "The country would show the world that it had a remarkable capacity to forgive," Archbishop Tutu told 500 delegates to the International Press Institute conference. "Thank you for the important part of the struggle you have played. You helped tell our story," Archbishop Tutu said. Many newspapers had supported the government and had vilified many people involved in the struggle, but there had always been newspapers that had told the story and helped changed the climate.

"We want to say thank you, thank you, thank you," Archbishop Tutu said to loud applause.

He said he had waited 62 years to be able to vote in his own country and the media had helped make this possible.

"Tell the world these people have a remarkable capacity to forgive. After 27 years in jail they can smile and laugh and be human," he said.

The delegates gave him a prolonged standing ovation.

● The Press and Mr Mandela — Page 8

● TEC 'must ensure freedom of press' — Page 4



WELL DONE! . . . Editor of the Guardian Mr Peter Preston, with Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the former editor of the Daily Dispatch, Mr Donald Woods in Cape Town last night
Picture BENNY GOOL

Journalist doubtful Press will be free

□ Media must give people the 'confidence to vote'

JOHN YELD
Staff Reporter

243
ARG 16/2/94

PRESS freedom in South Africa is experiencing a "Prague spring", which might not last beyond the April election, British journalist and veteran foreign correspondent Patti Waldmeir has warned

Ms Waldmeir, Johannesburg bureau chief of the London Financial Times newspaper, was chairing a session, *Living with intimidation and violence — Press freedom issues in South Africa*, during yesterday's proceedings of the International Press Institute's general assembly being held in Cape Town this week

She said there were hopes for a "Prague summer" of Press freedom — "but I have my doubts about that"

Such freedom was a habit that developed over time — "and elections are not going to solve that"

Ms Waldmeir said she suspected the "honeymoon period" many journalists enjoyed with the African National Congress would end soon and that the organisation's attitude to the Press could harden

Journalists' jobs were becoming increasingly risky "I've never been so frightened in my life and I suspect I'm going to be even more frightened in the run-up to the election"

She believed her coverage had



suffered because of her fear

The managing editor of the Sowetan newspaper, Joe Thloloe, said journalists were not a breed apart — "our problems are the problems of society"

Part of revolutionary strategy was to discredit institutions and South Africa's liberation movements had succeeded in doing this "beyond their wildest dreams"

The police, courts and media were now seen as instruments of oppression

"We as the media have a responsibility. We have to win back our credibility in the same way that the police, army, civil service and others have to win back theirs"

The mainstream Press had for years referred to ANC and Pan Africanist Congress members as "terrorists", Mr Thloloe said

"People don't forget that easily. It's going to take us years to win back the confidence of the ordinary man, not just weeks"

Jon Qwelane, editor of *Tribute* magazine and radio talk-show host, said drug smuggling from North Africa was common knowledge, but no local journalists were in a hurry to break the story

The reasons were fairly obvious — "the mere mention" of a car tyre and a few gallons of petrol was all that was required to make journalists develop severe cases of amnesia

Deputy editor and political editor of The Star Shaun Johnson said South African journalists were facing the greatest test of their profession and would be "on trial" during the election period as much as the election process itself

Journalists could not claim any special status

The best protection they could aim for was the "abstract" protection of the approval of most people in society, and he did not believe the South African media had the approval, legitimacy and understanding of the public

"And it's at least partly our fault. I don't think we have the trust of the public," he said

Tim du Plessis, assistant editor of Beeld, said he found it ironic that the rightwingers who intimidated and threatened journalists were the same people who claimed there could not be a free and fair election because the level of intimidation in black communities was too high

SABC board member Ruth Tomaselli said the media could not ensure an absence of violence and intimidation, but could reassure voters by telling them what to expect — "in other words, (give them) the confidence to vote"

Media bodies call for Press freedom

CAPE TOWN — The International Press Institute meeting in Cape Town and other media organisations have adopted a resolution calling on all parties taking part in the April election to commit themselves publicly to Press freedom.

The motion states that no democratic country can guarantee its people freedom from fear and exploitation without a free and unfettered Press. The media should provide people

with the facts they need to take part effectively in a democracy, says the motion. It should provide, also, an open forum for opinion and expression **Bibay**

The resolution calls on parties seeking power in the election, as well as the present and future governments, to **16/2/94**

Defend the right of journalists to inquire, publish and distribute freely and without interference;

Uphold journalists' right

of access to public areas, officials, government and other events without intimidation and without threat, **(243)**

Oppose all moves, measures or restrictions which may obstruct the development and distribution of a diversified Press; and,

Encourage and promote the growth of a courageous, professional and independent Press

Report by E Kemp, Sapa, 141 Commissioner Str, Jhb

● Comment: Page 16

Press freedom in SA 'may not last'

Star 16/2/94

243

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — Press freedom in South Africa is experiencing a "Prague spring" which may not last beyond the April election, British journalist and veteran foreign correspondent Patti Waldmeir has warned.

Waldmeir, Johannesburg bureau chief of the Financial Times newspaper of London, was chairing a session, "Living with intimidation and violence — press freedom issues in South Africa", during yesterday's proceedings of the International Press Institute's general assembly in Cape Town.

She said she suspected the "honeymoon period" that many journalists enjoyed with the ANC

would end soon. Journalists' jobs were becoming increasingly risky.

Joe Thlooe, managing editor of the Sowetan newspaper, said part of revolutionary strategy was to discredit institutions, and South Africa's liberation movements had succeeded in this regard "beyond their wildest dreams".

The country's police, courts and media were now seen as instruments of oppression.

"We as the media have a responsibility — we have to win back our credibility in the same way that the police, army, civil service and others have to win back theirs."

Shaun Johnson, deputy editor and political editor of The Star,

said South African journalists were facing the greatest test of their profession and would be "on trial" during the election period as much as the election process itself.

The best protection journalists could aim for was the "abstract" protection of the approval of most people in the society, and he did not believe the South African media had the approval, legitimacy and understanding of the public.

Beeld assistant editor Tim du Plessis said he found it ironic that the rightwingers who intimidated and threatened journalists were the same people who said there could not be a free and fair election in South Africa because the level of intimidation in black communities was too high.

'Murder of journalists the ultimate censorship'

(243) APR 17/1994

Staff Reporter JOHN YELD reports on the final day of the 43rd annual general assembly of the International Press Institute meeting in Cape Town.

THE international media — particularly those with substantial financial resources — must not ignore the "dark corners" of Africa like Angola and Cameroon where journalists are facing intimidation, repression and death

This appeal was made by South Africa editor Ken Owen who was chairing a workshop session on Press freedom at the International Press Institute's general assembly yesterday

Mr Owen's remarks followed disclosures by Pius Ndjawe, director of *Le Messager* newspaper in Cameroon, that 113 journalists or media personnel were in jail — including 16 detained in eight African countries, five of them in sub-Saharan Africa — at the end of January this year

Two journalists had been killed since the beginning of the year

"Murder is the ultimate censorship," Mr Ndjawe said

Angolan sources had claimed that at least 291 journalists had died or disappeared since the resumption of the civil war in September 1992, although official sources put the figure at 49

Press freedom in French-speaking African countries was in a "catastrophic" state, and although most African countries enshrined freedom of speech and the media in their constitutions, this was "unfortunately generally a smokescreen", Mr Ndjawe said

His eight-year-old daughter had said "I don't want to be a journalist because otherwise the police will come every day to arrest me, the way they do to daddy"

Algerian journalist Ghania Khelifi, chief editor of the newspaper *Liberte*, said eight colleagues and friends had been assassinated during 1993 by Algerian fundamentalists fighting the government

"They all believed in free-

dom and democracy," she said

Most Algerian journalists had been forced to leave their homes and slept at different places each night after death threats

"We have learnt not to trust anybody, to stay alive as long as possible — our main concern is now to survive," Ms Khelifi said

● Officials of the South African Union of Journalists believe figures quoted by Mr Ndjawe relating to the deaths of journalists in Angola are based on incorrect and substantially exaggerated reports

□ □ □

THE world is looking to South Africa to see whether it can manage the transition from racial discrimination and bitterness to democracy and a mutually supportive society, says former British cabinet minister Shirley Williams.

Baroness Williams, professor of elective politics at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, said this would be "perhaps the greatest challenge" of post World War 2 history

She was taking part in a panel discussion *Roots of Violence and Conflict*

A "profound distinction" had to be made between being part of a nation and being part of a nation state, she said

"One of South Africa's biggest challenges is how to make a nation into a nation state"

This implied changing people's primary loyalties from their ethnic group to that of the state

□ □ □

AFRICA's greatest need is to tap the resources of all its citizens and they must be drawn into as many forms of government and social institutions as possible, says writ-

er and academic Njabulo Ndebele

Professor Ndebele, rector of the University of the North, was speaking during the final session, entitled *Vision of the Future Africa*

Africa was ravaged by famine, diseases, civil wars, military governments, stagnant bureaucracies, illiteracy and failed experiments, Professor Ndebele said

The future of the continent could not be entrusted to life presidents and their government ministers

● The lack of any reference to environmental issues during the IPI general assembly was "extremely surprising and disappointing", said SA Nature Foundation chief executive John Hanks

He appealed to the international media to help promote environmental literacy

□ □ □

A STRONG international monitoring group of journalists, editors and publishers is likely to be based in South Africa during April to monitor and act on allegations of intimidation and violence against journalists covering the elections

Director Johann Fritz told the closing session that the number of incidents of intimidation and harassment of journalists was increasing, and would probably increase further in the run-up to the election.

The institute's executive had agreed to set up a special monitoring group in South Africa during the period from approximately April 20-28 to receive any complaints

These would be quickly investigated and given "full publicity", and the South African government would be pressed to take action

Guarantee insufficient, says council

Star 18/2/94

'Alter Bill's section on media freedom'

(243)

Cape Town — The Press Council should investigate the section on media freedom in the Bill of Rights to remove contradictory and ambiguous qualifications, Press Council chairman Professor Kobus van Rooyen said yesterday.

In his opening remarks at the council's annual meeting, and later during debate on another topic, he said the guarantee of media freedom in the Bill granted substantial protection but did not go far enough.

This had been conceded by President de Klerk and ANC president Nelson Mandela.

The Bill allowed for limitations to media freedoms which were reasonable within an open democratic society based on equality. However, it also provided

that, in the case of political speech, the limitation must also be necessary.

During debate, Sunday Times editor Ken Owen — also a member of the Conference of Editors, which met yesterday morning — said that body had decided to ask suitable authorities to examine the Bill and propose a new section for incorporation in the final Bill of Rights.

The Press Council should consider doing something similar, Owen said.

Van Rooyen also told the council that it needed to focus again on unnecessary laws inhibiting the free flow of information.

The Publications Act should be amended to provide only for age restrictions and classifica-

tions of films. The possible prosecution for hard-core pornography should be left to the courts.

Van Rooyen said he was personally disappointed by the Appellate Division's extremely narrow interpretation of the public-interest defence.

"One would hope that the Constitutional Court would widen this defence."

He was referring to defamation actions against the media, where he felt intention to defame, or at least gross negligence, should be the basis of an action for contempt of court by the media.

Van Rooyen said the council was particularly happy with its success in having section 205 of the Internal Security Act amended at the end of 1993 — Sapa.

Fun 18/2/94
PRESS FREEDOM

243

Viability is the best guarantee

Shakespeare's *The Tempest* is being performed by Capab in Cape Town this week. It is an intriguing drama in which Prospero uses his magic art to regain his dukedom, usurped by his brother, then lays aside his sorcery as a wiser and more chastened man.

The 400, mostly foreign, delegates at the annual congress of the International Press Institute are meeting simultaneously in the city. The congress was addressed on Monday by F W de Klerk and Nelson Mandela. Their speeches, particularly the latter's, so encapsulated the elements of high drama in *The Tempest* that it is a pity delegates won't see it. The similarities are profound and the portents ominous.

But Shakespeare is far too Eurocentric to be politically correct in our brave new world. Instead, delegates were entertained by an evening of African music at the University of the Western Cape, cradle of our new democracy.

Mandela makes a sensitive Prospero, well served in his speech writer by a mischievous Ariel. Caliban is personified in the white, male, middle-class editors of SA's daily newspapers and "upper echelons of the electronic media."

Happily, the *FM* is a weekly specialist publication. But in the eyes of the ANC dramatist we guess we are rather more Caliban than Caliban himself. For we have consistently criticised the ANC's democratic lapses and economic absurdities — as, indeed, we did those of the Nats for 36 years.

In our experience most of these editorial Calibans are reasonably talented journalists of democratic inclination and substantial goodwill. They tend to be economically benign but of late have been persuaded that collectivist views do not contribute much, if anything, to the upliftment of the poor.

Their sin is that they "have no knowledge of the life experience of (the) majority" and accepted a "shameful regime of vigorous self-censorship rather than stand up to a repressive government." In the eyes of the ANC, they left the alternative press — pioneering and courageous, if commercially unsound and of dubious totalitarian motive — to probing and iconoclastic journalism.

The last time Mandela and his mischievous Ariel made these accusations at an international press gathering, *Argus* newspapers were stung into commissioning a book to gainsay these errors and establish themselves as the real mouthpiece of anti-apartheid endeavour.

The book was perhaps a little too hagiographic to be convincing to ANC sceptics or other journalists. But it had a point. Maybe now another *Argus* editor will be brought out of retirement to take up the cudgels. Or maybe not.

Our guess is that now the *Argus* newspapers are, via ambitious Irishman Tony O'Reilly, being delivered to the ANC, they will lapse

gracefully into political torpidity. After Mandela's superficial support for press freedom — so qualified as to question his sincerity, let alone his accuracy — *The Argus* in Cape Town announced in banner headlines. "Mandela pledges freedom for the press." Speaking at the Rand Club last year, Mandela singled out *The Star* for political approbation. Will Durban's *Daily News* be next?

There were not many journalists, especially foreign ones, at the conference who left Cape Town City Hall on Monday comfortable that a free press would survive here. The rub, of course, is that while the ANC says it welcomes criticism and has nothing to fear from it, the very opposite is the case.

The ANC has had a bad press since 1990. The truth is that its economic policies are half-baked, its social policies recidivistic and its leaders eschew consistency for expediency. Even if it possessed sophisticated communications skills, these facts could not be forever hidden. They have nothing to do with the Caliban editors of the daily press.

Instead of looking to its own shortcomings both in policy and in communication, the ANC is seeking other scapegoats. And like the National Party of John Vorster, it assumes it could turn the situation to advantage if it were to open its own newspaper, for which apparently US money is available once the ANC has found a local publishing partner. That is a splendid idea, though whether it will achieve ANC objectives is up to providence — and Ariel.

We don't know if O'Reilly is the conduit for those US funds. But two years ago, when he considered buying *Argus's* stake in Times Media Ltd, he asked Anglo American for a loan to be repaid out of profits. Now he appears to have no lack of ready cash. Perhaps it is a coincidence.

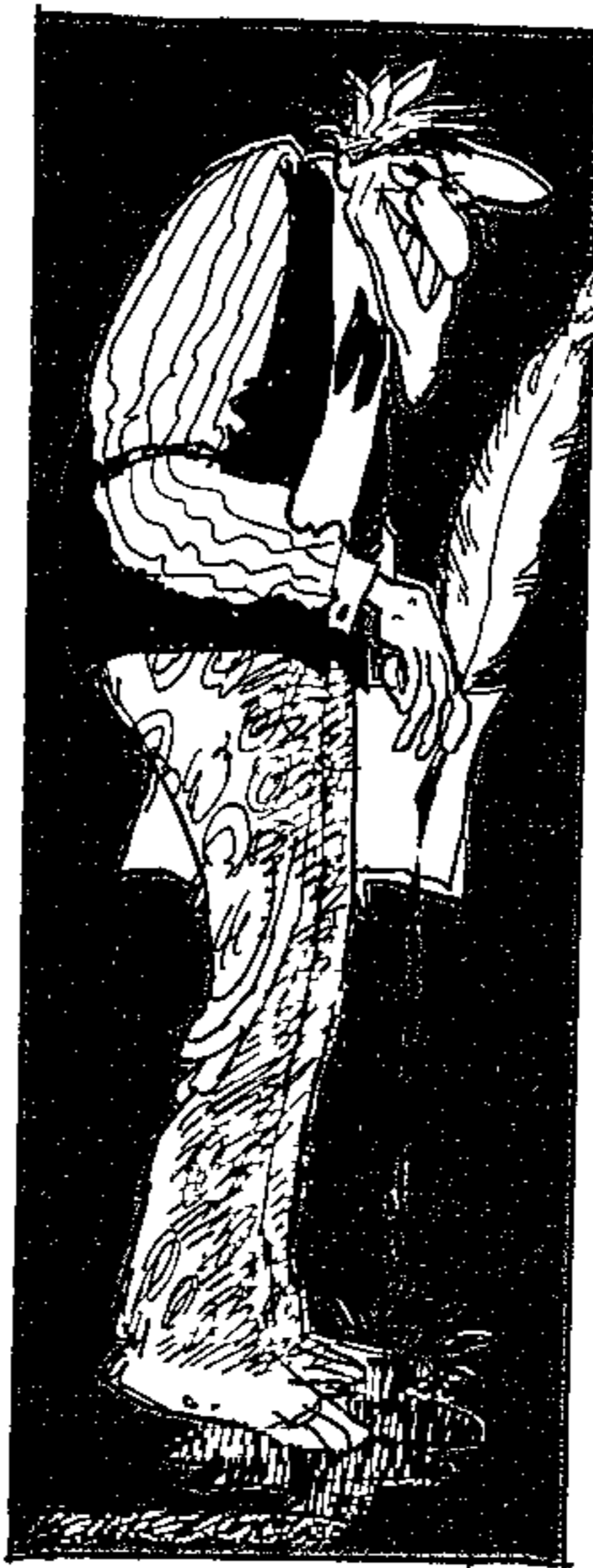
Finally, Mandela, or his Ariel, told delegates that SA business, if left to its own devices, would continue "to hoard its capital and speculate for the highest profit."

That was not written by anyone who is economically literate.

The ANC itself is one cause of the decline of investment in SA. If the banks lend as the ANC says it will require them to (that is, to those who won't or can't repay loans), then so-called speculation will rise even more vigorously.

Most of our daily newspapers are commercially viable concerns which, left alone, will continue to adapt to the ever-changing requirements of readers and advertisers. Now that the constraint of apartheid is removed, this adaptation should gather pace.

But if they be pushed for political expediency by ANC intervention beyond the bounds of rational commercial endeavour, the ANC will risk not only eroding press freedom but jeopardising the viability and, therefore, the very existence of a free press. ■



FW 18/2/94

editors with such a profile, what is disturbing is the threat of one-dimensionality this poses for the SA media.

"It is clearly inequitable that in a country whose population is overwhelmingly black, the principal players in the media have no



Mandela



De Klerk

knowledge of the life experience of that majority"

While he made no suggestions for specific changes, the implication of his message is clear. The ANC expects affirmative action in the commercial press to mirror the sort of appointments that have given the SABC a new face — so much so that President F W de Klerk, speaking earlier at the congress, accused the ANC of blatantly manipulating the organisation

The ANC's view of press restructuring also needs to be seen in the context of Mandela's wish for the "maintenance and extension of the diversity of the media."

The organisation's new focus follows the sale last week of a controlling interest in Argus Newspapers by JCI to Irishman Tony O'Reilly — a step welcomed by Mandela — which undercut one of the pillars of ANC criticism of the commercial press.

For the record, Mandela again stressed the ANC's commitment to a press free of State interference and with the economic strength to stand up to the "blandishments of government officials."

But, in another sideswipe at the mainstream print media, he maintained that during the years of severe repression under apartheid, the owners of mainstream newspapers "preferred to accept a shameful regime of rigorous self-censorship rather than stand up to a repressive government"

It was, he said, the so-called alternative press that "kept the flag of press freedom aloft" during those times and whose efforts resulted today in SA editors enjoying greater freedom

Equally worrying was Mandela's reaffirmation of what is effectively the ANC's threat to intervene directly if the private sector does not comply with the organisation's political demands. He repeated his allegations that SA business prefers to "hoard capital or speculate for the highest profits" rather than invest in new productive areas.

"We are convinced that, left to its own devices, the SA business community will not rise to the challenges that face us. The objective of our policies is to create employment.

243

While the Democratic State will maintain and develop the market, we envisage occasions when it will be necessary for it to intervene where growth and development require such intervention.

"Among these will be the employment of mechanisms of affirmative action to redress the effects of past discrimination against blacks, women, people in the rural areas and the physically disabled" In addition, he said, the ANC believes public sector investment to provide basic needs and services can create about 300 000 new jobs

An ANC government, Mandela said, would strive to attract foreign investment through stable, consistent and predictable policies.

De Klerk's contribution focused on similar issues. He too stressed the need for stability to encourage economic growth. But he was more diplomatic in his professed support of press freedom, saying he accepted the "necessary tension" between government and the media.

However, his allegation that "one of the main parties" (clearly the ANC) was "trying to exert undue influence over the SABC" was astonishing given the National Party's track record in this regard. Though the NP frequently complains the SABC is biased in favour of the ANC, this was the first time De Klerk had personally become involved in the row.

Among his allegations were that: the ANC propaganda department was giving SABC journalists direct instructions; a journalist who refused to obey was told not to return to work after the election; and the Democratic Education Broadcast Initiative is being abused to influence voters through its "sub-textual content"

SABC director-general Wynand Harmse called on De Klerk to provide evidence of his allegations. ■

THE MEDIA FW 18/2/94

Political bashing

The dominance of SA newspapers by what ANC leader Nelson Mandela refers to as white, middle-class males who tend to share a similar life experience, is set to become the new focus of the organisation's efforts to reshape the media. (243)

Speaking in Cape Town this week at the annual congress of the International Press Institute, which was attended by the world's leading newspaper publishers and editors, Mandela said: "While no-one can object to

243

Star 19/2/94

243

Storm clouds for press freedom

CAPE TOWN — Ominous signs have emerged that freedom of the press could suffer as much under a democratically elected ANC-majority government in South Africa as it did under apartheid.

Tales of vicious attacks on the media in other African countries after recent elections and "democratisation" emerged at this week's International Press Institute annual general assembly in Cape Town.

Most ominous of all were first-hand accounts indicating that some of the worst culprits were supposed democrats with electoral support, especially in Nigeria.

Fears that an ANC-dominated government could clamp down on a critical press are growing as South African journalists recount horror tales of increasing intimidation of journalists in the run-up to the

April election

These fears were fuelled by ANC leader Nelson Mandela's criticism of the current racial composition of media workers as "white, male and middle-class". And President de Klerk suggested the ANC was already intimidating SABC journalists.

Hired thugs

One of the most dramatic accounts came from Niyi Onororo, publisher of Nigeria's People's News, who said it was not only that country's military rulers which had clamped down on press freedom — the present military regime had shut down several newspaper groups.

Onororo said Chief Moshood Abiola, who won last year's Nigerian election which the military government overturned, was himself a culprit. Abiola is publisher of Nigeria's Concord

Group of newspapers

Onororo alleged that after he wrote an article and a pamphlet condemning the use of money by candidates in the presidential election — by implication Abiola — "my properties, personal effects like cars, my press and the house where I was publishing my newspapers were completely devastated and destroyed by hired thugs and assassins".

Mike Butscher, London publisher of West African Democrat, says that in Nigeria, fear had led to media self-censorship.

"That the public has the right to know could expose a journalist to death, detention, imprisonment, brutality or closure of a publication, and suspension, demotion or dismissal in the case of journalists on government payroll," he said. He said that since the intro-

RECENT events in Africa have shown that elections do not guarantee press freedom and some of the biggest 'democrats' are the worst enemies of a free press. DAVID BREIER reports.

duction of multiparty politics in the Ivory Coast in 1990 after 30 years of one-party rule, the mortality rate of newspapers had been very high.

Butscher said surviving Ivory Coast publications were finding it difficult to cope with official repression, with more than 25 journalists in the past two years suffering detention, harassment and assault for "insulting the head of state". Two publishing houses were ordered to close for the same reason.

He said that in Ghana, in spite of the reintroduction of

multiparty politics, editors of independent newspapers were very cautious about what to publish if they wanted to survive.

While the latest winds of change had also brought multiparty politics to Sierra Leone, they also took their toll on the independent press corps.

"The introduction of a controversial Decree No 6 of September 1992 requires newspaper editors to submit documents, pictorial representations or photographs to an official censor for approval be-

fore publication," Butscher said.

Another Sierra Leone decree bans any report "which is likely to cause alarm, despondency or be prejudicial to public safety". A new curb last year prevents "irresponsible reporting".

On the other side of the continent, where the Kenyan government has made pro-democratic noises, Nation Printers and Publishers of Kenya reports examples of government "high-handedness in its dealings with the media".

This includes physical attacks on journalists, seizures of publications deemed offensive to the State, public humiliation and intimidation of newsmen, and arrests.

How does South Africa measure up to this in the run-up to the April election? Tribute magazine editor Jon Qwelane gave a harrowing account of

growing intimidation of journalists in South Africa at all levels — even sports journalists.

"The sudden appearance of pistols at formal meetings of the football hierarchy has had a fantastic effect on sportswriters, inspiring them to lofty heights of lucid and imaginative prose in praise of certain football administrators," he said.

Imaginative

"The mere mention of a motor car tyre and a gallon or two of petrol has often been the tonic required to send many reporters into sudden and inexplicable bouts of amnesia — making them forget completely what they had just witnessed," he said.

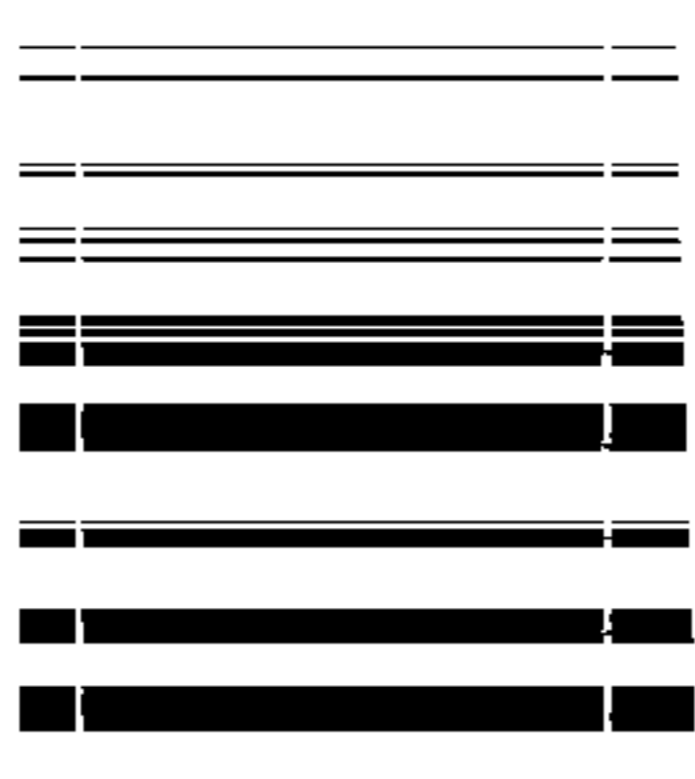
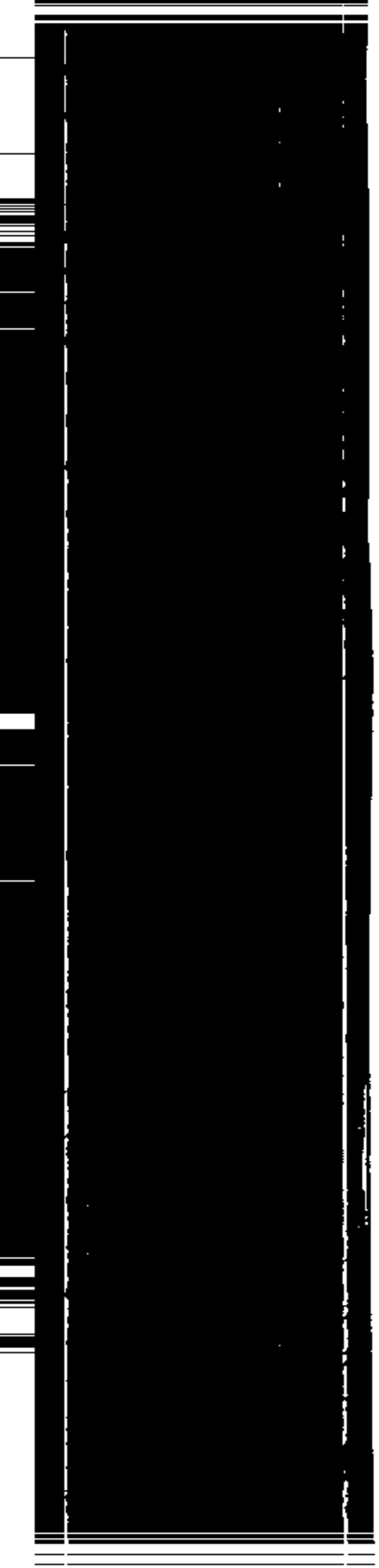
"The most menacing form of intimidation with which the media must now contend is that

by the masses. It stems believably from the fallacious belief that if you report what is contrary to popular assumption and opinion, then you must antagonise the masses," he said. He said political organisations fed on this type of intimidation.

London Financial Times correspondent Patrice Waldme who has lengthy experience in South Africa, suspected that a honeymoon period which journalists had with the ANC would end soon and that ANC's attitude to the press would harden.

She said journalism was coming increasingly risky, as she had never been "so frightened in my life".

Senior journalists point out that although the Bill of Rights in the Interim Constitution includes the right to "freedom of the press and other media," it is not sufficiently entrenched



Threat to press freedom under the spotlight

Star 19/12/94
248

CAPE TOWN — Fears for press freedom in a new South Africa have grown substantially. In a week that brought the role of the media into the spotlight.

● The Conference of Editors expressed its dismay at increasing cases of abuse, threats and attacks on journalists assigned to report on politics

● The Black Sash appealed to the Transitional Executive Council and ANC chief negotiator Cyril Ramaphosa to place the issue of press freedom on the agenda for the TEC meeting on Tuesday

● The Democratic Party slammed a PAC youth leader's remark that perhaps a journalist should be killed before the PAC receives fair media coverage as displaying "a total lack of understanding of how the press works".

● Professor Kobus van Rooyen, chairman of the Press Council, said the council should investigate the section on media freedom in the Bill of Rights to remove contradictory and ambiguous qualifications.

● Delegates at the 43rd assembly of the International Press Institute heard leaders Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk affirm their commitment to press freedom but a leading trainer of journalists cautioned that the profession should continue to be a watchdog over its own interests

Editors said in a statement after their conference in Cape Town this week that the accurate reporting of politics was vital to the democratic process. "The conference

calls on all political leaders to re-affirm their dedication to democratic principles by urging their followers to respect the safety of journalists and their right to report freely."

Van Rooyen said the guarantee of media freedom in the Bill of Rights granted substantial protection but did not go far enough. This had been conceded by President de Klerk and ANC president Nelson Mandela

In a letter to the TEC, Mary Burton of the Black Sash said the organisation recognised it might not be possible in the time remaining before the April election to consider and amend all of the many Acts which restrict the press's freedom to report information vital to voter awareness and the public interest.

See Page 6.

"Nevertheless, the Black Sash believes some of these measures could be given special priority." She said the Independent Media Commission would turn its attention to the independence of the media, and the Black Sash acknowledged the importance of that issue

At this week's International Press Institute gathering, Professor George Claassen, recently-appointed head of the department of journalism at the University of Stellenbosch, warned that South Africa's emerging democracy was "very fragile" and that the media would have to be "the prop to which the new plant is attached to enable democracy to grow". — Own Correspondent, Sapa, Staff Reporter.

people were still listed as missing, and 10 were confirmed dead. Police are still trying to place the ANC leadership

Sunday Nation editor queries circulation audit

Biday 25/2/94

AMANDA VERMEULEN

SUNDAY Nation acting editor Gabu Tugwane lodged a query this week with the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) about the paper's newly released audited circulation figures for July to December, the ABC said.

Tugwane queried whether comparisons could be drawn with circulation figures for the same period in 1992, when the paper was published on Fridays and named New Nation.

The paper changed its name and moved to Sunday publishing in August

Tugwane said Sunday Nation was a different product.

The audited figures for July to December 1993 show Sunday Nation's circulation has dropped 33% to 38 709 from 58 153 when it was still New Nation.

ABC GM Syd Pote said he had not received any notification the paper was to be considered a different product. Apart from the name change and the move to Sunday publishing, the paper had remained the same, he said.

An ABC source said Tugwane could request that New Nation's membership be suspended. This would allow him to apply

for new membership for Sunday Nation. This would mean that no unfavourable comparisons could then be drawn with New Nation.

Industry sources said the paper's circulation had dropped because Sunday publishing was an overtraded market dominated by the Sunday Times.

The Sunday Times's strength was cited by Argus management as a reason for the Sunday Star's closure last month.

Sunday Nation, funded mainly by the EC, needed a more aggressive marketing policy to compete with the Sunday Times, an industry analyst said.

Independent advertising consultants said the drop in circulation had been expected with the move to Sunday publishing and was not a cause for concern among national advertisers.

Newspaper distributor Allied operations manager Carl Ackerman said Sunday Nation's low circulation figures could be directly attributed to the dominance of the Sunday Times and City Press in the Sunday market.

Policy negotiations hold up hostel conversions

Biday 25/2/94

EDWARD WEST

CAPE TOWN — A project to convert hostels and provide housing units for about 300 families on the Cape Flats has come to a virtual halt because the National Housing Board is in the process of negotiating a new housing policy

However, 29 converted hostel units would be handed over to families in Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga today.

Project manager Hannes van der Merwe said other plans to turn hostels to homes for about 300 families — the first phase of a project to convert state-owned hostels on the Cape Flats only — had been held up because of negotiations relating to the future sustainability of housing standards and subsidies

The handover of the 29

units was made possible by an agreement signed by the Cape Provincial Council, Umzamo Development Project and Ikapa Town Council about 18 months ago

The CPA said the handover paved the way for conversion of more hostels on the Cape Flats. But it said it was still waiting for the National Hostels Co-ordinating Committee to approve the scheme

Van der Merwe said divisive ethnic elements that characterised hostel occupation in Transvaal were largely absent in the Cape, where hostel dwellers were mainly Xhosa

This made the conversion of hostels here easier, he said.

Two killed in Bekkersdal

JOHANNES NGCOBO

TWO people were shot dead and several others were injured yesterday during running battles between Azapo and Inkatha Freedom Party members in Bekkersdal on the West Rand.

A police spokesman said a hand grenade had been thrown at a police patrol but no one had been injured.

Two people had died when residents retaliated after a group attacked a house, he said.

Bekkersdal residents said yesterday that they were staying away from work to protest against the violence.

They were also protesting against the internal stability unit's continued presence in the township.

Residents' representatives claimed the stayaway was successful

Is
cr
car
ha
va
re
50
Jr
m
N
fu
to
in
p
I
e
u
s
o
n
r
e
c
o

PAC denial on
CT 11/3/94
threat to press

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The PAC has denied its supporters called for the killing of white journalists covering the weekend funeral in Umtata of Apla commander Mr. Sabelo Phama (243)

PAC spokeswoman Ms Siphwe Sithole said yesterday the reports were "manufactured"

She said the PAC would "protect journalists and help them cover events. We believe in people's right to know"

...over body spray, and was now marketing takes time and

Agencies criticised on affirmative action

Biday
AMANDA VERMEULEN

STATE intervention on affirmative action would be the forced result of the advertising industry's inaction, ANC human resources deputy head Papie Moloto said.

Speaking at the Sunday Times appointments advertising conference last week, Moloto said the industry still lacked professional advertising in indigenous languages. *13194*

"The scarcity of black advertising agencies meant the selection of an agency to handle the ANC election campaign was approached on a racial level."

He said the industry needed to develop the organisation and infrastructure to produce a generation of advertising people fully representative of the population

Moloto said the ANC proposed to form a national labour commission as the first step towards formalising affirmative action legislation.

He suggested the commission would facilitate the establishment of equity partnerships, joint ventures and black representation on boards of directors, based on a model of industry self-regulation.

"If the private sector is allowed to regulate itself on issues of affirmative action, it will be able to blow the whistle on those who are not playing by the rules. The state will intervene only if the private sector fails to use its self-regulatory powers."

He said an ANC government would look at a system of grants and levies to assist the private sector in affirmative action programmes

Affirmative action was a developmental issue and should not be politically motivated, he said

"Excellence is needed in SA and affirmative action is all about excellence."

THE AGENCY 9547

Charter Media to sell small

Biday 13194
AMANDA VERMEULEN

THE Newspaper Marketing Bureau has launched Charter Media to sell national advertising for small community papers.

Charter Media has 19 titles, eight owned by or linked to Caxtons.

National advertising coordinator Danielle Klein said mainstream media reached 75% of SA's emerging markets but the small community papers were central to reaching the rest.

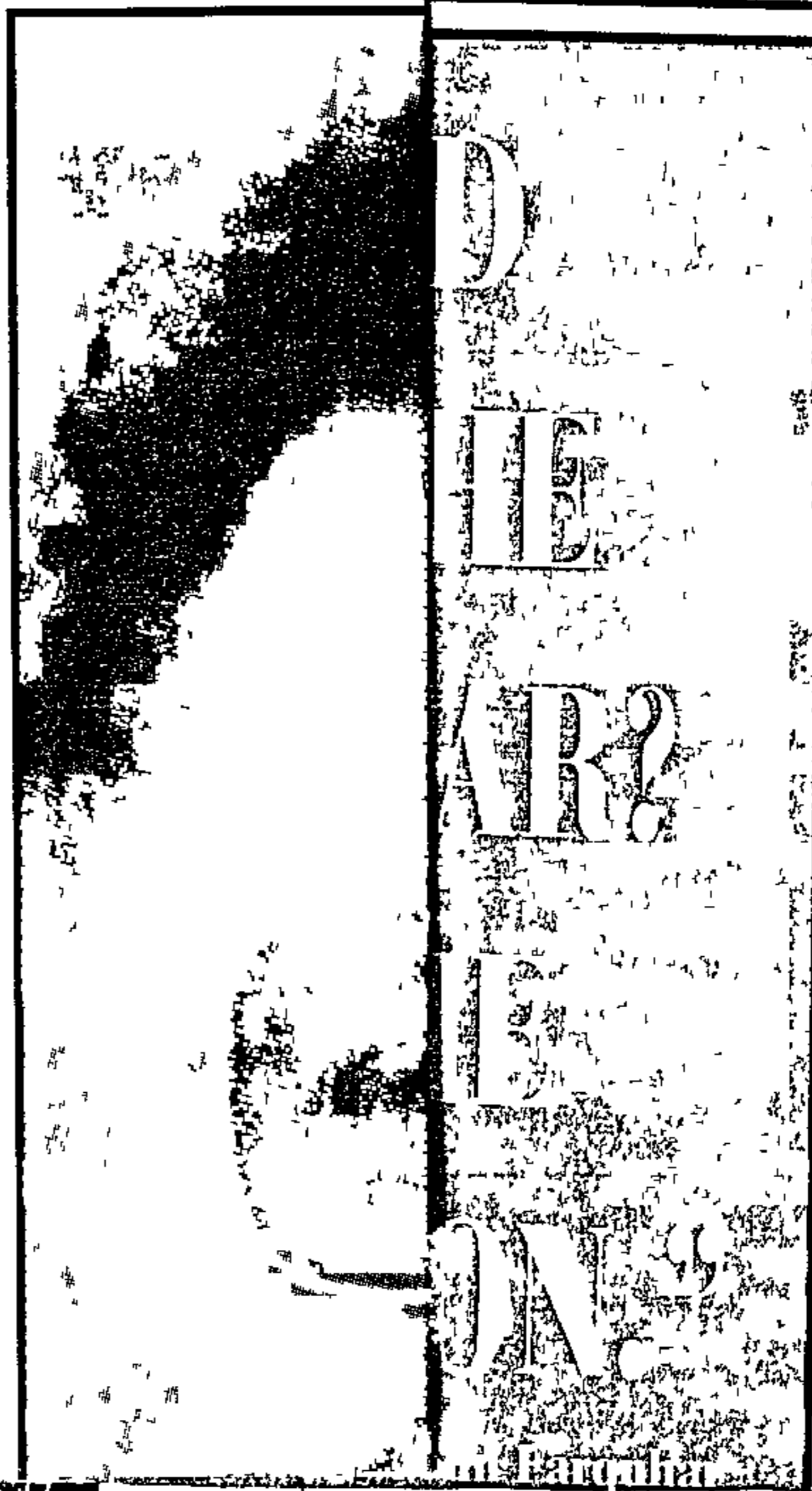
Charter Media was established to serve community papers and to offer advertisers the chance to reach other sections of the community. *(243)*

Klein said response from agencies was encouraging. At present, advertising came mainly from political parties and grocery and furniture retailers.

She estimated that about R5m of advertising would be placed in Charter Media's first year

80
98

st
0



THE Ind
tion (IE)
tablished
major p
ion can
IEC
eter H
id bee
shing
car
The
est
ms
Har
uld
and
ally
The
o en
paid
and
said
for
act
W
in
IO
sum
WIA
act
for
said
and
paid
o en
The
ally
and
out
uld
Har
ms
est
The
car
shing
id bee
eter H
IEC
tion can
major p
tablished
sion (IE)
THE Ind
Poll
bein

Black newsmen at A WB meeting

Staff Reporters
CT 2/13/94

TWO black photographers evicted from an A WB meeting at the City Hall on Monday night were last night allowed to cover the right-wing organisation's meeting in the Kraaifontein town hall

Earlier in the day A WB leader Mr Eugene Terre'Blanche, explaining the ban, said at a press conference he could not guarantee the safety of black journalists covering his meetings because "nationalist emotions run high" and people "don't understand the tension of the Afrikaner who is under threat of losing his land"

He also accused journalists attending Monday's meeting of being "confrontational" and said their bosses should know better than to send black journalists to right-wing meetings

Last night the two photographers — Mr John Christopher of England and local photographer Mr Bernard Perez — were searched entering the hall and greeted with discontented murmurs when they sat down at press tables at the front of the hall

The meeting was attended by about 700 people Mr Terre'Blanche said to thunderous applause that the media "wants the freedom to go where they like but are not prepared to write about the 'Boer' who wants their own freedom in his own land"

Mr Christopher said "I am just doing my job but I would be lying if I didn't say I was scared"

Meanwhile, the TEC yesterday called on Law and Order Minister Mr Hennus Kriel to say what the police had done to prevent the A WB from acting



SMILE, PLEASE. A WB leader Mr Eugene Terre'Blanche, flanked by "ironguards" including the man who evicted black journalists from a City Hall meeting — leaves the Kraaifontein City Hall last night as British press photographer John Christopher captures the moment. Picture: ANNE LAING

against journalists because of their skin colour

SA Communist Party representative Mr Joe Slovo said the A WB action was "one of the most outrageous events since we been engaged in the process to democratic transition"

"The security forces must prevent them from acting against people purely on grounds of their colour"

The Democratic Party's media spokesman, Mr Peter Soal, said the A WB action was "as racist" as the attitude the PAC and Azapo's displayed towards journalists at Apla commander Mr Sabelo Phama's funeral at the weekend

"It is the duty of the press to mirror society, warts and all, and the A WB should desist from their undemocratic tactics," Mr Soal said

The Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa) said the A WB had a right to hold its beliefs and ideals, but no right to threaten journalists covering news events Mwasa said the incident should be viewed as an effort to undermine the freedom of the press

The union called on the Independent Electoral Commission to act against the A WB

● Jackboot politics — Page 6

Kriel quizzed about AWB

CAPE TOWN — The TEC called on Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel yesterday to explain what the police had done to prevent the AWB from acting against journalists because of their skin colour.

This follows strong attacks at yesterday's TEC meeting on the AWB for its decision to bar black journalists from its rally in the Cape Town City Hall on Monday night.

SA Communist Party representative Joe Slovo said the AWB action was "one of the most outrageous events since we have been engaged in the process to democratic transition" This action, 58 days before the election, was part of the political threat to the election.

"This exposes what one has supposed is the real face of the volkstaat," he said.

The Freedom Alliance, particularly its black members and Afrikaner Volksfront leader Gen Constand Viljoen, should say whether they approved of this "racial thugery" by one of their alliance partners, Slovo said.

Political Staff

"The security forces must prevent these brown-shirted thugs from acting against people purely on grounds of their colour." 213194

The TEC also asked Kriel to provide it with details of the police investigations into an AWB disruption of a local government forum in Newcastle recently. (243)

DP media spokesman Peter Soal said that for the AWB to chase photographers and journalists from its meeting in Cape Town was as racist as the PAC's and Azapo's attitude towards journalists at Apla commander Sabelo Phama's funeral at the weekend. (256)

"The AWB are nothing more than bigoted bullies who should be grateful that credible journalists want to report their racist outpourings," Soal said.

"It is the duty of the Press to mirror society, warts and all, and the AWB should desist from their undemocratic Nazi-type tactics."

Reports by B Streek and A Johnson, TML, Press Gallery, Parliament

AWB action is condemned

By Mzimasi Ngudle

THE MEDIA Workers' Association of South Africa has condemned the manhandling of black journalists by supporters of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging in Cape Town on Monday

"While the AWB has the right to

Sowetan 31/3/94
hold high its beliefs and ideals, it does not have a right to threaten journalists in their coverage of news (243)

"Their behaviour and attitude have proved to be anachronistic and smack of Nazism and barbarism

"Mwasa holds freedom of speech sacred but cannot sacrifice journalists at the altar of expediency"

The union called upon the Independent Election Commission to act against the perpetrators "lest it be proven to be a toothless bulldog".

"The lunatics should not be allowed to call the shots and firmly destroy the basis already laid for a free Press," Mwasa said

BBC news head in SA killed in car smash

CT 10/3/94

MMABATHO — British Broadcasting Corporation news head in South Africa Mr John Harrison was killed in a car accident on the road between Mmabatho and Zeerust yesterday

Mr Harrison and BBC cameraman Mr Glen Middleton were returning from Zeerust when the car in which they were travelling left the road

And journalists covering the violence in Bophuhatswana suffered casualties when youths attacked reporters at makeshift roadblocks

Youths stopped an SABC television crew headed by Ms Nan Roux about

5km outside Mmabatho and tried to pull her from the car, SATV reporter Mr Danie Hefer said. He said Ms Roux had been assaulted and the car stoned (243) (243)

Mr Hefer and his crew were also attacked on their way back from Zeerust.

A team from the British news network Sky News was stopped at another roadblock near Mmabatho and told by youths they had to leave the car or they could be shot, ITN reporter Mr James Brittan said — Sapa

Right-wingers fire on newsmen

CT 12/3/74 (243)

AWB members opened fire on an SABC television crew filming their withdrawal from Mmbatho yesterday.

This was one of several incidents in which right-wingers and supporters of President Lucas Mangope assaulted, shot at, and harassed journalists covering the Bophuthatswana uprising.

Two senior journalists, Mr John Battersby of the Christian Science Monitor and Mr Paul Tayler were severely beaten and kicked by the retreating AWB members outside Mafikeng as they went to the aid of the SABC crew who were shot at. The crew was filming the tail end of the AWB's retreat from Mafikeng.

SABC radio journalist Mr Eugene Yssel was earlier beaten and kicked at the AWB's so-called campaign headquarters, the Bophuthatswana Defence Force airfield.

Star photographer Mr Ken Oosterbroek was assaulted and his film confiscated, and Cape Town freelance photographer Mr Fanie Jacobs was also assaulted.

● The SA government has made "strong representations" to the Bophuthatswana government about the beatings, Minister of Foreign Affairs Pik Botha said yesterday. — Sapa



Picture LEON MULLER, Weekend Argus

□ **IT'S A DEAL:** Argus Newspapers chief executive John Featherstone, left, shakes hands with his Times Media Limited counterpart David Kowarsky at a press conference in Cape Town last night.

ARG 12/3/94 (243)

Argus takes control of Cape Times in R61-m deal

■ From page 1

nalists, we can understand the emotions of the moment. The Argus and The Cape Times are among the longest-established newspapers in the country and I feel sure every effort will be made to preserve the great editorial traditions and the integrity of both newspapers."

At the time of yesterday's

announcement, the Cape Times was managed by Argus Newspapers in terms of what was called a Joint Operating Agreement with the newspapers publishing out of Argus-owned Newspaper House.

Although the financial holdings of the two newspaper groups — TML and Argus — now have been separated, they will maintain links through

strengthened joint printing and distribution agreements.

Argus Newspapers' chief executive John Featherstone said at a Press conference in Cape Town last night that the deal was the natural next step in the unbundling of Argus Holdings, which had 100 percent control of Argus Newspapers as well as a stake in TML.

He said decisions affecting such things as the structure of the enlarged group would have to wait for the decisions from the new Argus Newspapers Board under the control of its Irish owners.

There were no plans to expand the group. The group was trading under difficult economic conditions and was in a period of consolidation.

ARGUS BUYS CAPE TIMES

243

ARG 12/3/94

BRUCE CAMERON

Business Editor

ARGUS Newspapers has bought the Cape Times and taken full ownership of Natal Newspapers and the Pretoria News in a R61-million deal with Times Media Limited.

The shuffling of ownership of South African's main English language newspapers follows the recently announced sale of a controlling 31 percent interest of Argus Newspapers to Ireland's Independent Newspapers.

Argus Newspapers now owns both English daily newspapers in Cape Town and Durban. TML's main titles now are its flagship, the Sunday Times, and the niche market Business Day and Financial Mail.

The deal is effective from April 1 and will form part of the reconstructed Argus Newspapers company, which is expected to be listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in May.

The Competitions Board, which carried out an investigation when the Natal Mercury in Durban was sold to the Argus Group in a deal that led to the formation of the Natal Newspapers operating company, has indicated that it does not intend to conduct an investigation into the transaction.

The incorporation of the Cape Times into the Argus stable has perturbed newspaper staff, but Times Editor Kosie Viviers, who will be staying on at the helm, said he had been given acceptable guarantees of editorial independence.

He felt "a bit traumatised" by the announcement because of the long relationship with TML and the "obviously uncertain" future caused by Argus Newspapers' ownership.

Although the staff were "basically unhappy and uncertain" about the future, he said they were dedicated to keeping the Cape Times going.

Andrew Drysdale, The Argus editor-in-chief, said "As jour-

PRESS UNDER FIRE

IFP official threatens journalist

Political Staff

ARC, 15/3/94

KIMBERLEY — Sapa reporter Jonathan Rees was threatened by an IFP official outside the Kimberley City Hall soon before IFP president Mangosuthu Buthelezi arrived to address a political meeting.

The unidentified official had apparently taken offence over Mr Rees's repeated questions to Chief Buthelezi as to why the majority of the IFP supporters had apparently been bussed in from the OFS goldfields and the Reef to support the IFP leader's two-day visit to Kimberley.

"Do you want me to tell them to chase you?" the official demanded, gesturing to a makeshift impi of fewer than 100 supporters kneeling on the ground outside the Kimberley City Hall, rattling their spears and sticks behind cowhide and homemade cardboard shields.

The official accused Mr Rees of having a "destructive attitude" towards Chief Buthelezi for asking why the majority of the 750-strong crowd at Sunday's Kimberley rally had been bussed in.

But the official refused to identify himself to Mr Rees, shrugging off the question and saying "it doesn't matter".

About 200 people attended the IFP leader's City Hall meeting last night. They included two busloads of IFP supporters and about 50 local residents.

There was a muted police presence outside the Kimberley City Hall as about 150 curious onlookers gathered to watch the impi sing and chant, led by indunas wearing red armbands, who performed war dances, gesturing with their spears and sticks.

(News by K Ritchie, corner of Bean and Vilhers Streets, Kimberley)

Bid to derail sale of Times

MAGGIE ROWLEY
Deputy Business Editor

AN attempt is being made by a consortium of black businessmen, acting in association with Nasionale Pers, to derail Argus Newspapers' takeover of the Cape Times which was announced last week.

The consortium recently made an unsuccessful bid to buy the Cape Times. The consortium is believed to have been advised, in the initial stages at least, by former Cape Times editor Mr Anthony Heard.

Chartered accountant Mr Mustaq Brey, who is putting together the consortium, said they had made representation to the Competitions Board opposing the TML/Argus arrangement and outlining their rival bid.

If their bid was successful Nasionale Pers would become a minority stakeholder in the Cape Times and would print and distribute the newspaper.

Competitions Board chairman Dr Pierre Brooks confirmed the board had been approached.

"The case is far from cut and dried. We made a decision not to investigate the acquisition based on facts put before us. If new information is now provided which indicates differently, then it is possible we will have to rescind the green light and institute a full investigation," Dr Brooks said.

Due to its sensitivity and the April 1 implementation date for

Black consortium attempts to buy paper

The Argus/TML deal, the case would be given priority.

Nasionale Pers chairman Mr Ton Vosloo said he had been approached by "interested people in the Western Cape with credible links in the black community and enjoying the confidence of figures in the English business establishment" who had asked Nasionale Pers to be associated with a bid to buy the Cape Times.

"Nasionale Pers is in a position to play a supportive role in terms of stability, technology, marketing and finance.

"Our only stipulation would be that such a newspaper should be independent and to this end a trust of eminent people would be established to ensure editorial independence."

Mr Vosloo named two of the consortium as Mr Brey, managing partner in chartered accountancy firm Brey & Associates, and Mr Fred Robertson, managing director of Commlife Insurance Brokers.

The names of Dr Jakes Gerwel,

CT 16/3/94
rector of UWC, and Mr Franklin Sonn, the rector of Pentech, both of whom have strong ANC links, have been mentioned by sources as potential trustees.

Mr John Featherstone, chief executive of Argus Newspapers, said they had made their presentation to the Competitions Board and it "was a very good case".

"Based on this case, the Competitions Board said it did not intend launching an investigation into the matter and we remain confident of the intrinsic merits of Argus Newspapers' acquisition of the Cape Times."

This was reiterated by TML managing director Mr David Kovarsky who confirmed that Nasionale Pers, acting for a consortium, had made a written approach to TML a few weeks back to acquire the Cape Times.

"However I would not consider the approach as having been a formal bid, no figures were mentioned and they received a written response as to why we did not feel the approach was viable."

ANC Western Cape leader Dr Allan Boesak said he had no reason to fear the takeover of the Cape Times by Argus Newspapers would be detrimental to the ANC.

However, ANC economics spokesman Mr Trevor Manuel said he was concerned about the possible monopolistic aspects of the sale.

He did not believe the global trend towards the concentration of ownership boded well for the press.

Bank may back Cape Times bid

By MAGGIE ROWLEY
Deputy Business Editor

THE newly-formed black controlled Merchant & Investment Bank of Africa (Miba) would be keen to help finance a black business bid to buy the Cape Times, says chairman Mr Don Mkhwanazi

Mr Mkhwanazi said that Miba, which was shaped out of Prima Bank in March, "would be very interested in a transaction like this which would further black economic empowerment".

City chartered accountant Mr Mustaq

Brey, who is putting together a black business consortium in association with Nasionale Pers to make a bid to buy the Cape Times, said the group would send its official letter of complaint about the Argus company's acquisition of the Cape Times to the Competitions Board by fax late yesterday.

Competitions Board chairman Dr Pierre Brooks said that the board would examine the consortium's complaint immediately it was received. This could be followed by individual meetings with concerned par-

ties

(243) CT 17/3/94

In terms of the consortium's take-over proposal, Nasionale Pers would become a minority shareholder and would print and distribute the Cape Times

● The Cape Times branch of the South African Union of Journalists has criticised the manner in which their newspaper was taken over by the Argus company

The union said its members were informed of the takeover long after the deal had gone through. Sapa reports

Call to ensure media diversity

Political Correspondent

THE Transitional Executive Council should take steps to prevent the monopolisation of the media in South Africa, the Black Sash said yesterday

Black Sash "legislation watch" spokeswoman, Ms Martha Bridgman, said "A free media is fundamental to the democratic process the world over, and is endangered in South Africa due to current attempts to monopolise sectors such as the English press." (243)

She urged the TEC to define a policy on media ownership and promote diversification and to appoint a task group on the media" CT 17/3/94

Press monopoly remains

(243) w m 18-24/3/94

Despite the unbundling of Anglo's newspaper interests, a chronic monopoly still exists in the English press, writes **Bruce Cohen**

REMEMBER the good old days when Anglo owned the English language press? There was a certain comfort in the simplicity of the structure: mining capital controlled the press and the press was its lapdog.

In the last few months, however, the whole picture has changed.

Phase I was the sale by Argus of 52 percent of the *Sowetan*, the biggest daily in the country, to the black-owned Corporate Africa consortium headed by Dr Ntatho Motlana. The deal was a welcome signal that the press monolith was beginning to crack. But there is so much vertical integration in the English language press that the *Sowetan* continues to be intimately bound up with Argus interests that are virtually impossible to disentangle. Argus, apart from its 20 percent stake, continues to hold the printing, distribution, advertising and management contracts for the paper. In other words, de facto control.

Phase II came in February when the "bear-like, soft-eyed" (according to a *Star* reporter) Irishman Tony O'Reilly, chief of Heinz, rolled into town. Before you could lick the mayonnaise off your fingers he had taken all Argus newspapers off Anglo-JCI's hands.

O'Reilly's 31 percent stake in the soon-to-be-listed Argus Newspapers makes him the most powerful newspaper magnate in the country. For R125-million he acquired control over a tidy pile of newspapers that generate around R700-million a year in revenues: 100 percent of *The Star*, *Cape Argus*, *Sunday Tribune* and *DFA*, 70 percent of Natal Newspapers (*Daily News* and *Mercury*), 55 percent of the *Pretoria News*, as well as a 70 percent share in the *Cape Times* JOA. He also gets 70 percent of the Newspaper Printing Co in Johannesburg, the country's biggest newspaper press operation as well as control over the Allied distribution network (also 70 percent).

Last week came Phase III, the divorce with Times Media Ltd. TML's joint holdings with Argus were erased — except in distribution/printing. For R61-million, Argus Newspapers

(read O'Reilly) gets 100 percent control over *The Cape Times*, the *Pretoria News* and Natal Newspapers.

The effect of these deals is that the English press is no longer a single pyramid with Anglo-JCI at the pinnacle. There are now two distinct groups, O'Reilly's Argus and Anglo-JCI's TML.

Competition Board chairman Dr Pierre Brooks says the new structure is an improvement because Anglo-JCI no longer occupy the commanding heights of the English press. Technically, he says, all that Argus Newspapers have done is to take out the minority interests (they already had control over Natal Newspapers and the *Pretoria News*, and a majority cut of the *Cape Times* joint operating agreement).



It is hard, however, to view the situation in a purely technical light. The fact is the English press remains a chronic monopoly. O'Reilly now controls:

- More than 50 percent of English language daily newspaper sales across the country (one out of every two English dailies sold are 100 percent Argus papers. If one adds in O'Reilly's de facto control of the *Sowetan*, the percentage is much higher)

- Almost 40 percent of English weekend newspaper circulation

- A total monopoly — of advertising and sales — of the English daily newspaper market in Cape Town

- A similar monopoly in Durban

- A prime position in the PWV

The result is that, at the operating level, monopolisation of the English newspaper market is now even more

concentrated than before (TML at least had editorial control over the *Cape Times* before the latest deal). The main difference is that local mining capital has been replaced by foreign ketchup capital.

In this post-sanctions era, it's politically incorrect to be xenophobic about the fact that the English language press in South Africa now effectively belongs to a foreigner. After all, only a handful of countries like Australia, Brazil, France, Italy and Japan bother to regulate foreign ownership of the press, and South Africa needs the forex.

Neither does one want to sound alarmist warnings of the Chomskyst nightmare of our press falling into the hands of that small club of transnational media giants who massage and homogenise the world's news agendas (after all, O'Reilly is a dwarf compared to NewsCorp's Murdoch or CNN's Turner or Time-Warner's Ross). But the degree of concentration in the English press remains unacceptably high with power over the press a privilege of the select few.

The irony of the situation is that it comes hot on the heels of deliberate attempts to prevent this sort of control emerging in the broadcast sector. The Independent Broadcasting Authority Act imposes specific restrictions on foreign investment in private radio and TV stations (a limit of 20 percent) and also has some very inadequate anti-monopoly regulations.

Despite its flaws, the IBA Act is a genuine attempt to promote plurality of ownership and a diversity of voices. The anomalous situation in the newspaper sector is glaring testimony to the failure of policymakers to address the issue in the context of the entire media landscape of South Africa.

Several countries such as Austria, Norway, Belgium, Sweden, France and Holland, alarmed by the high concentrations of newspaper ownership, have devised elaborate state subsidy systems to promote media diversity (financial support for new and alternative voices).

Those who believe democracy should also be a feature of the South African press, should be actively campaigning to ensure the new government takes seriously its responsibility for promoting press diversity to ensure that freedom of expression is not limited to the few who can afford to publish their opinions.

■ See Page 18

Black group ready to start own paper

□ Ruling on Cape Times buy-out awaited

HENRI du PLESSIS
Staff Reporter

A BLACK consortium trying to buy the Cape Times said it will launch its own daily newspaper in Cape Town if its bid fails

Its bid depends on the Competition Board's decision on the bid by Argus Newspapers to buy the Cape Times

Leading members of the consortium, who held a news conference today at Gatesville, Athlone, said its bid was a serious one.

If the Argus buy-out was banned by the Competition Board, it would offer the same price for the Times Media Limited assets that Argus wanted to buy. If the buy-out went ahead, it would launch its own daily in Cape Town.

The consortium, headed by a group of Cape Flats businessmen and with the support of former Cape Times editor Tony Heard, said it believed it

could raise the R61 million needed for the buy-out.

Members of the consortium condemned reports suggesting a link between its bid and the ANC, saying it was unfair because it suggested a front

"Why is it that whenever a black group wants to buy a business, people are looking for fronts?" asked Fred Robertson, head of Commlife Insurance Brokers and Nando's Chickenland, spokesman for the consortium

Among the members are Ebrahim Bhorat, chief executive officer of South newspaper and managing director of Melotronics

The consortium said it knew the Cape Times was losing money but it believed it could be turned around — just as Mr Bhorat had turned South into a profit-making venture

Mr Robertson said the consortium believed it had access to the necessary expertise to run the paper efficiently.

ARG 18/3/94 (243)

It also believed aspects of the joint operating agreement with The Argus could remain for the foreseeable future

The consortium promised Cape Times staff the same security as they had with TML and guaranteed editorial independence with an editorial trust similar to the Guardian Trust in Britain

● Competition Board chairman Pierre Brooks anticipates being able to make a decision on whether to launch a formal investigation into the Argus buy-out of TML's media interests at the end of next week.

Mr Brooks said the board would not comment on any of the meetings it had scheduled with the various interested parties.

"Once we have heard everybody and have gone back to the Argus and Times Media, for their response, we will comment further."

The origins of a newspaper tradition

CT 18/3/94
(243)

NEWSPAPERS seldom write about their own affairs, except on the occasion of centenary celebrations, perhaps, when a flourish of institutional pride is surely permissible

Yet the future of the Cape Times may be in the balance and so it is worthwhile to recall the origins and development of the newspaper's independent tradition

The tradition has been under mortal threat more than once in the last 120 or so years and has suffered various setbacks but it has survived to this day in vigorous health

The Cape Times was established in 1876 by F Y St Leger, an Anglican priest and classical scholar of Irish origin who gave up his living to take part in the Kimberley diamond rush before establishing the Cape's first daily newspaper

St Leger insisted from the start that the Cape Times was not the paper of any political party but represented the interests of the people of the Cape as a

whole. It took its stand on the principle of political liberty which, St Leger asserted, was essential to the moral and political health of the Colony

A concern for human rights was soon evident when the paper denounced the brutal assaults of labourers on the Kimberley mines and on farms, which were an unhappy feature of colonial life at the time.

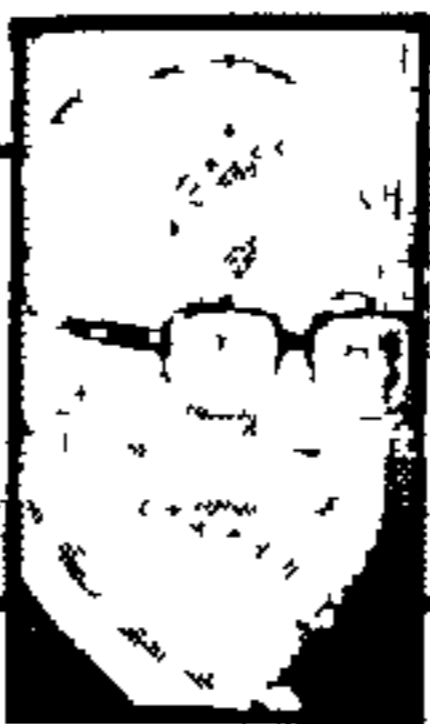
Tradition

In an imperial age, St Leger was a liberal imperialist who did not doubt that the Empire was a force for good in human affairs. His chosen successor, Edmund Garrett, was contractually bound by him to conduct the paper in every respect on the same liberal lines

The tradition survived an attempt by Rutherford Harris, Cecil Rhodes's hatchet man, to usurp the policy of the paper at the time of the Jameson Raid in what Harris conceived to be the interests of Cecil Rhodes.

Harris had acquired a half share in the paper (apparently on Rhodes's behalf) on the precise condition that this did not give him any say whatsoever in editorial policy, yet he persisted in interfering. Garrett, a frail and wasted victim of tuberculosis, ordered him out of the

Political Survey
By GERALD SHAW



editor's office. Harris left, never to return

Garrett collapsed on the eve of the South African War and he gave up the editorship. There was a brief and inglorious interregnum before Maitland Park, a scholarly yet tough-minded Scot, restored the paper's standing and influence, which had faded somewhat during the war.

Jingoistic

Park held that an editor must work out his own salvation — or damnation — as he told E R Syfret, chairman of the Cape Times board

Park, later Sir Maitland Park, was one of the first influential figures in the English-speaking establishment to recognise General Louis Botha as a great statesman of reconciliation at a time when the English-language Press for the most part was pro-Jameson and still rather jingoistic in tone

The Cape Times accepted the compromise of Union by which the Cape retained its non-racial franchise while the Transvaal and the OFS retained their whites-only franchise. The paper's confidence that the Cape franchise would ultimately prevail in the North was misplaced

The Cape Times rejected as a "rock of offence" the provision that whites only could sit in the Union Parliament

Park was succeeded as editor by B K Long in the 1920s and Long, in turn, was succeeded by George Wilson in 1935. Wilson had joined the newspaper in 1896 and his editorship, which continued until 1944, did much to maintain the continuity and consistency of the newspaper's outlook.

Although the Cape Times frequently found itself in editorial agreement with the party of Botha and Smuts in opposition to Afrikaner nationalism, the paper maintained its independent position

The South African Party, later the United Party, was never immune from criticism. As Desmond Young recalled in his memoirs, General Smuts reacted on one occasion to a Cape Times leader "as if he had been bitten by his favourite dog". Smuts's final Rhodes lecture in England in 1929 was strongly criticised by the Cape Times on the grounds that the segregationist picture of the 'native question' given by Smuts "seemed to have scandalously little resemblance to local realities"

The history of the paper in the Long and Wilson years has yet to be written and subsequent editorships are rather too recent for detached historical assessment. There have been ups and down but the tradition remains intact.

The essence of this tradition is that the editor, as long as he is editor, decides what goes into the paper.

As Geoffrey Dawson told the proprietors of The Times in 1922, every editor worth his salt must have a free hand to conduct his side of the paper as he thinks best as long as he is in charge of it

An editor, in fact, must work out his own salvation or damnation



Probe of Times deal urged

By **MAGGIE ROWLEY**
Deputy Business Editor

PRESSURE is mounting on the Competitions Board to launch a full investigation into the takeover of the Cape Times by the Argus company, with at least three objections to the takeover being lodged with the board by late yesterday (243)

Board spokesman Mr Wouter

Meyer confirmed that submissions had been lodged yesterday and more were expected next week, including one from the SA Union of Journalists

He said that once all submissions had been received the board would decide whether it would launch a formal investigation into the takeover, which was announced last week

One of the submissions was a

formal complaint about the Argus acquisition of the Cape Times by a consortium of black businessmen in association with Nasionale Pers, which together are planning a rival bid for control of the Times

CT 18/3/94
Objections have also been lodged by the Freedom of Expression Institute and the Weekly Mail and Guardian

Cape Times bidders say they're serious

CT 19/3/94 (243)

By MAGGIE ROWLEY
Deputy Business Editor

IF the bid by a black consortium in association with Nasionale Pers to buy the Cape Times failed, it would start its own independent "mainstream" newspaper, spokesman Mr Fred Robertson said yesterday.

At a press conference in Athlone, Mr Robertson, managing director of Commlife Insurance brokers and Nandos Chickenland, said "We are extremely serious about entering the newspaper market one way or another."

The consortium members, advised by former Cape Times editor Mr Tony Heard, include some of the most prominent black businessmen in the Western Cape such as Mr Ebrahim Bhorat, chief executive officer of

South newspaper and managing director of Melotronics, Mr Mustaq Brey, a senior partner in chartered accounting firm M Brey & Associates, Mr Roger Elick, chairman of the Institute of Directors and involved with Black Enterprise magazine; Mr Sam Dube of Dube Service Station, Mr Alson Somciza of National Window Blinds and Mr Jeffery Kleinsmith, a former editor of People's Express Newspaper who is now with Radio C Flat.

The consortium's bid depends on a Competitions Board ruling against the Argus/TML deal announced a week ago and TML agreeing to sell the Cape Times to another party.

Mr Brey said Nasionale Pers would take a minority stake in the company, but the size of this stake had not yet been decided.



BIDDERS . . . The faces behind the bid for the Cape Times are (seated, from left) Mr Sam Dube, Mr Fred Robertson, Mr Alson Somciza, (standing, from left) Mr Mustaq Brey, Mr Jeffery Kleinsmith, Mr Ebrahim Bhorat, Mr Roger Elick and Mr Tony Heard

Picture ANNE LAING

Photographer loses claim

Sunday Times Reporter
Sunday Times 2013/194

SUNDAY TIMES photographer Herbert Mabuza lost a R20 000 claim for damages against the Minister of Law and Order in the Johannesburg magistrate's court this week.

The court found that the minister was not responsible for injuries suffered by Mr Mabuza when

he was bitten by a police dog while covering a protest by taxi drivers on February 2 last year (243)

Counsel for the police, Mr Edmund Wessels, argued that Mr Mabuza went to the protest fully aware of the dangers and that he had behaved negligently by straying into an area where the dog felt threatened.

'Charge them'

THE Independent Media Commission has asked the Transitional Executive Council and the Independent Electoral Commission to take action against the South African Communication Service. 21/3/94

The SACS has been accused by the IMC of being biased in favour of the Government by making available only to the Government various news evaluation reports, which include road shows and campaign trails by political parties

The IMC said it had contracted the SACS to monitor the media during the election period, but the SACS allegedly insisted that it would only supply the Government with the reports

IMC chairwoman Mrs Zubeida Jaffer said "We wish to bring to the

attention of all political parties that the SACS intends to continue to provide the Government with a regular news evaluation service during the election period

"The IMC believes this would give the governing party prompt and exclusive access to media coverage on elections matters throughout the country (243)

"In terms of the IMC Act, it is the responsibility of our body to ensure that State information services are not directly or indirectly used to advance the interests of any political party, whether directly or indirectly

SACS head David Venter confirmed his organisation was not supplying the reports to other parties

(Report by I Motsapi of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg)

Media commission set to crack whip

BIDEN 24/3/94

MARCIA KLEIN

THE Independent Media Commission (IMC) will look at possible ways — including legal action — to ensure that political parties and some self-governing states co-operate with pre-election broadcasting regulations.

Acting IMC chairman Raymond Louw said yesterday that some departments and some self-governing states, including Law and Order, Home Affairs and KwaZulu, had not co-operated in terms of a ruling which said that they must submit all their communications to the IMC within 48 hours of broadcast. (243)

However, a Home Affairs spokesman said the reason his department appeared not to have co-operated was that it had not published anything.

It said that if it did, it would abide by the IMC regulations.

Law and Order could not be reached for comment yesterday, and the Inkatha Freedom Party refused to say anything.

The IMC announced, also, it would present a formula for political broadcasts to the broadcasters and the political parties.

This formula set out the amount of free time that public broadcasters should give political parties for "party election broadcasts". According to the formula, the ANC,

NP, DP and PAC would be given the most time based on the number of candidates, opinion polls and the allocation of money by the Independent Electoral Commission to the different parties.

If accepted, the formula would come into effect from the end of this week, the IMC said. The formula excludes time allocated to parties on the news and in current affairs and discussion programmes.

Although the IMC was restricted to parties taking part in the election, it would try to ensure that parties campaigning against the election should have time in the news and current affairs programmes.

The public broadcasting media had to broadcast party broadcasts as well as paid ads from political parties. Commercial broadcasters did not have to carry party programmes, but had to carry ads from all parties based on the IMC rules of fairness.

Louw said the IMC was aimed at ensuring a free and fair election and that political parties had equitable treatment by the broadcast media.

He said the IMC was monitoring broadcasting only, and not the commercial Press media

Report by M Klein, TML, 11 Diagonal St, Jhb

'Times should be more Cape-based'

CT 25/3/14 Staff Reporter (243)

THE Independent Media Diversity Trust yesterday warned it would call on the Competitions Board to intervene should Times Media Limited go ahead with the sale of the Cape Times to Argus Newspapers.

In a statement, IMDT director Mr Clive Emdon urged that consideration be given to providing the newspaper with a more representative Cape-based ownership.

If the planned sale went ahead the trust asked the Competitions Board to hold a proper meeting to ensure the issues were heard in an "open and transparent way".

The IMDT was particularly concerned with the intended sale which would result in both daily newspapers having the same owner, which was "part of the old rather than the new", and unacceptable in a society moving towards democracy.

General clears his name in defamation fight

□ Papers fail in 'proof', court finds
ARC 25/3/94 (243)

IN setting aside Mr Justice Kriegler's trial court decision in favour of the Weekly Mail and Vrye Weekblad, the Appeal Court found that the evidence of self-confessed Third Force member Dirk Coetzee had not been proven on a balance of probabilities

The onus of proving Coetzee's allegation lay with the defendants of the action, and this they had not been able to do

A full Bench of the Appeal Court, therefore, concluded the newspapers had defamed the applicant — esteemed forensic scientist Major-General Lothar Neethling — by implicating him in the supply of poison used by security branch operatives against members of the African National Congress

The newspapers based their defences largely on publishing the truth for public benefit

But, General Neethling claimed the Vrye Weekblad articles contained "false, malicious and defamatory" matter, while statements published in the Weekly Mail were "per se defamatory"

The Appeal Court judgment — written by Mr Justice Hoexter — is reported in the latest issue of the South African Law Reports.

Concurring, Chief Justice Corbett said he wished to make clear that "this is one of those relatively rare cases where the probabilities are evenly balanced; it is not possible to say with any degree of certainty who is telling the truth".

The court awarded costs to General Neethling, found he was entitled to damages, and granted leave to both parties to file further heads of argument

Captain Dirk Coetzee worked for the Post Office before joining the police in 1970. He quickly rose through the ranks

A few years later he did a stint with the Rhodesian security forces where he became acquainted with counter-insurgency techniques such as the use of poison and the incineration of bodies to prevent identification of corpses

After being stationed at Sibasa for a while, he was commissioned in 1975, before ending his career as a security policeman based at the highly secret Vlakplaas camp near Pretoria where turned ANC cadres received instruction

AS three police generals come under the spotlight for alleged involvement in Third Force activities, another general's protracted fight to clear his name might give them courage. Staff Reporter ROGER FRIEDMAN looks at the Appeal Court decision in the matter between General Lothar Neethling and two weekly newspapers

He fled South Africa for England in 1989 where he joined the ANC

In October 1981 Coetzee claims he received instructions to collect "poison" and "sleeping-drops" from General Neethling at his laboratory in Pretoria

"I told him there were two men I had to get rid of, thereafter he sup-

plied me with two packets of poison powder"

Coetzee remembers noticing an old police safe, a certificate stating General Neethling had flown on the Concorde and an old rugby photograph in the general's office.

Questioned as to exactly what General Neethling had given him Coetzee said "Two packets of powder the figure 60 was mentioned. It was very little so it must have been 60 mg. I also asked for liquid (drops) that we could use in the drinks of people for purposes of abducting them. So he gave me a clear plastic container, after taking drops from his safe and saying they were expensive I think he said they cost R30/R40 a drop"

Coetzee went to a farm near the Botswana border where he tried out the concoctions on two men — "Vusi" and "Peter" — with little effect.

The next day Coetzee alleges he remained at the farm while an accomplice went to Pretoria to return later with a "double dose"

According to the accomplice, Coetzee testified, General Neethling was surprised the medicine had not worked. Further doses were administered to Vusi and Peter the next day with equally "disappointing" results

Later, Coetzee and his accomplice returned to Pretoria once more where they visited General Neethling at home on a Sunday. He got dressed, took them to the office and gave them a "triple dose". The powder again proved a complete failure. Finally Vusi and Peter were each shot behind the ear with a Makarov

Coetzee alleged other another security officer had told him of a bottle of whiskey prepared for him by General Neethling. Poison had been injected into the bottle with a "micro-needle" and the hole sealed

Other incidents Coetzee testified to included

● His involvement in the killing of Durban attorney Griffiths Mxenge. In November 1981 while stationed at Vlakplaas.

● While a lieutenant stationed at the Oshoek (Swaziland) border post Coetzee admitted stealing a number of cars plus several other incidents round the country.

Measures mooted to limit media monopoly

(243) CT 28/3/94

MEASURES should be taken to limit monopoly control of the media, the ANC said at the weekend.

The democratic government had a major role to play in the introduction of a new media policy, the ANC said in its draft reconstruction and development programme for the Western Cape.

"This must, however, be limited to facilitation rather than dabbling in editorial content of media enterprises."

Open debate and transparency in government and society were a crucial element of reconstruction and development, the organisation said.

Parties allocated free radio air time

DAVID GREYBE

THE Independent Media Commission yesterday finalised free radio time allocation for the 27 parties taking part in the elections, with the ANC and NP receiving almost 19 times more air time than the smallest provincial party.

The parties will receive a total of 150 hours of party election broadcasts, or free radio slots, in terms of the Independent Media Commission Act.

The free air time is over and above the advertising time political parties might choose to buy, or the time they might receive in news and current affairs programmes.

Commission chairman Judge Richard Leon said that apart from "a fairly high" minimum broadcast time, parties were granted additional free time on the basis of "the proportion of the seats each party is contesting" in the elections.

"In addition, general fair and pragmatic considerations of the relative strengths of the parties were taken into account," Leon said.

The election broadcast time allocations had been finalised "after the commission had considered proposals and complaints from political parties about time allocations".

However, the commission had decided that its original approach to determining the allocations would not be changed, he said.

Report by D Greybe, TML, 11 Diagonal St, Jhb

IMC charge against Mopeli

By Mzimasi Ngudle
Political Staff

THE Independent Media Commission has asked the Transitional Executive Council to take action against two homeland leaders.

Qwaqwa chief minister Mr TK Mopeli's Dinkwankwetla Party of South Africa reportedly abused state resources for the benefit of the party. KwaZulu chief minister and Inkatha

Freedom Party leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi uttered a statement which could allegedly hamper free political activity and the holding of free and fair polls. (243)

Buthelezi reportedly said the March 28 killing of IFP supporters in Johannesburg marked "the start of a struggle to the end".

The IMC said Qwaqwa homeland state resources were being abused to benefit the DPSA.

The homeland's communication officers also claim to have been marginalised and their functions taken over by the chief minister's office.

IMC monitors—who said they found that Mopeli's offices were being used for Dikwankwetla Party business on their visit to the homeland, said Mopeli refused to discuss the allegations.

The IMC said the party's official telephone number appearing on all party documents was that of the department of

education.

The home telephone number appearing on the same documents belonged to a ministerial house occupied by Mr DT Mokoena, the education minister, who is also the party's general secretary. The IMC also proposed that action be taken against the Afrkaner Volksfront, which reportedly asked residents in a questionnaire whether they were prepared to "give everything in this town to the ANC-communists".

IMC to watch election coverage

South 114-514194

By Shannon Neill

FREE and fair coverage has been promised to all political parties following the Transitional Executive Council's (TEC) creation of a media-watchdog body, the Independent Media Commission (IMC).

IMC commissioner Ms Zubeida

Jaffer said the TEC appointed the commission "to ensure the playing fields were levelled in both broadcasting and state information services". (243)

The IMC is only an interim body, however. After the election the Independent Broadcast Authority (IBA) will monitor broadcasting.

According to Jaffer there is as yet no authority to monitor state information services after the elections.

"There is a feeling we will need a Freedom of Information Act but it's going to take a lot of campaigning to get something like it," she said.

The IMC is based in Johannesburg but has recently opened an office at the University of Cape Town's Criminology Institute to monitor police and prisons' internal communications.

"Dr Don Pinnock will be running this branch with two other commissioners. Basically we don't want circulars in prisons which damage the elections or favour one party," Jaffer said.

At the IMC a broadcast committee monitors broadcasting on public-owned television and radio and another committee monitors the 44 different government departments producing literature which might have political impact.

"The idea is that if the contents of any such document impact on the election and favour one party then it's not allowed," said Jaffer.

IMC legislature also ensures civil servants don't use state structures and resources to promote one party.

"For example, if in the Transkei the ANC produced 100 000 pamphlets using state infrastructure this would be a contravention of the Act and we would need to be informed," Jaffer said.

The IMC only hears complaints from political parties although there is an "IMC Hotline" which members of the public can phone with information or questions for the IMC.

The toll-free "Hotline" number is: 0800 112004.

Put press deals on hold — Black Sash

Political Staff

ALL pending transactions involving the ownership of the press should be stopped until a policy on media control had been formulated through the emergent democratic process, the Black Sash said yesterday in a letter to Competitions Board chairman Dr Pierre Brooks

The Black Sash urged that the board should seriously consider the option

of a moratorium on media transactions until a policy on the issue had been negotiated democratically

"As a human rights organisation, we appeal to you in this pre-election period to stay all pending transactions regarding the press and other media until a policy on such matters has been formulated through South Africa's emergent democratic process," it said in the letter, signed by Mrs Martha Bridgman on behalf of its Legisla-

tion Watch group

This policy could serve as a guideline in the special case of the media

"For, as you are well aware, newspapers are more than an economic unit providing employment and revenue

"They represent a critical factor in the formulation of political opinion, among other things, and their control (especially by foreign entities) over

this campaign period could be considered a threat to free and fair elections at the most fundamental level"

The board is expected to give a preliminary ruling this week on the sale of the Cape Times to Argus Newspapers

The board should seriously consider this option in the light of the interim constitution, which would soon guarantee the freedom of speech, said the Black Sash

Prison 'prank' sparks a riot ²⁴³

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A prank by a warder at Johannesburg Prison early yesterday led to a riot by about 1 000 prisoners in which many were injured.

A spokesman said prisoners set fire to their cells after a warder fired teargas from the prison grounds at a colleague in a watchtower at 2am

But the canister had exploded in a ditch, and the gas had been blown into the cells of about 400 sleeping prisoners

Correctional Services spokesman Mr Chris Olckers said the warder had been charged for the illegal possession of teargas

Mr Olckers said 24 prisoners had been injured, but none had needed to be taken to hospital

However, three ambulances were seen leaving the prison, and warders handed relatives waiting outside the gates a list of names of 46 injured prisoners

Mr Olckers said feelings had been running high when the officer in command had addressed the prisoners at 8am, and nearly 1 000 prisoners had begun rioting, burning their blankets and mattresses

The internal stability division had been called in as back-up, but the prison's internal task force had quelled the riot

SA Prisoners' Organisation for Human Rights spokesman Mr

Golden Bhudu said warders inside the prison had told the organisation teargas had been thrown into the cells during the night

The riot had broken out after the prisoners' demand to see the officer in command was refused

Two warders had been taken hostage, but had been released when the ISD intervened

Most of the injuries had been caused by wardens assaulting prisoners, he claimed

Mr Bhudu said the warder involved had been suspended from duty pending charges of assault

Mr Olckers refused to name the warden and denied Mr Bhudu's allegations.

The situation had been brought under control by midday, he said

CT 7/4/94

Wage talks deadlock

Sowetan 7/4/94

By Russel Molefe

THE Media Workers Association of South Africa has declared a dispute with Argus Newspapers after a deadlock during the annual wage negotiations last week.

In a meeting held in Johannesburg last week, the company offered the union an 8 percent wage increase and said that this was the final offer, Mwasa secretary general Mr S'thembele Khala said.

The union initially demanded 19 percent. It has now lowered its demand to 17 percent. Khala said Argus had opened its offer at 7 percent.

Argus representatives were not available for comment yesterday.

Khala said the 8 percent was "an insult" as some workers in Cape Town earned as little as R800 a month. He said workers were preparing for "all out war" which could cripple the country's biggest newspaper company during the elections.

Rejected offer (243)

The South African Union of Journalists which represents mainly white journalists has also rejected the offer and are demanding 14 percent.

Newspapers within the Argus group include *Sowetan* (partly owned), *The*

Star, *Pretoria News*, *Daily News*, *Mercury*, *Cape Argus* and *Post Natal*

Khala said management claimed inflation would drop to 7 percent, hence the justification for their offer.

Meanwhile, Mwasa has sent a letter to Kenya's newspaper, *The Nation*, protesting against the dismissal of Mr George Odiko for allegedly spending "too much time on union matters".

Odiko, who has served his newspaper for 25 years, is also secretary general of the Kenya Union of Journalists, assistant secretary general of the Union of African Journalists and executive member of the International Federation of Journalists.



Kriel hits out at Cape Times

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

THE STRAND. — The National Party's premier candidate in the Western Cape, Mr Hernus Kriel, said last night he was tired of being "a gentleman with the Cape Times".

He slammed the newspaper for "criticising you just when they want to but when they want something it's 'Please give us some information'."

The minister told a public

meeting in the civic centre here that the Cape Times should in future go to its "ally", the Democratic Party, for information

"See where you get with this bunch of people You will get nowhere — the National Party is going to govern the Western Cape," he said to extended applause from the 150-strong audience. CT 8/4/94

When an excited NP supporter called for the Cape Times reporter covering the meeting to be thrown out of the hall, Mr Kriel

responded

"No, let him stay He's not so bad . just a little misguided"

The original attack on the Cape Times was apparently prompted by an editorial in the newspaper yesterday on the implications of a recent opinion poll showing a surge of support for the Democratic Party in the Western Cape

Mr Kriel said that if the NP was supposed to have stolen the DP's policies, why was the DP fighting the NP in the Western Cape instead of the ANC (243)

Argus is biased, says Cosatu

South 814-12/4/94

By Quentin Wilson

COSATU'S Western Cape region is furious with The Argus because the newspaper's management refused to run an advertisement placed by the union federation.

The ad, which calls for people not to vote for the NP, refers to the "Trojan Horse" killings in Athlone in 1985 when three children were allegedly shot dead by police.

Headlined "This is the reality of 46 years of NP rule", the advertisement shows a photograph of the funeral and carries the caption: "Michael Miranda (11), Shaun Magmoed (16) and Jonathan Klaasen (18) were killed by the SAP in Thornton Road, Athlone in October 1985".

At the bottom it says: "Don't let them stain your hands with the blood of our children. Now it is time for us to use our vote to make sure the NP will never again be allowed to do to our children what they have done to us and those who have gone before."

According to The Argus editor, Mr Jonathan Hobday, the ad was turned down because it unfairly

linked the killings to the police.

"The allegations made in the ad were never proven in court. At the inquest following the incident, it was never proven that the police were involved in the killings and therefore we could have faced a lawsuit if we published it," Hobday said.

Mr Martin Jansen, one of Cosatu's election campaign co-ordinators, said that The Argus' decision was "surprising and hypocritical". (243)

"Conservative newspapers such as Die Burger and Rapport did not have a problem with the ad, but the supposedly more liberal The Argus did.

"The Argus said it was 'inflammatory' and contained unfair allegations but when you look at the ads they accept from the NP, such as the disgusting "Strangler" one, it is hard not to say that they are biased," Jansen said.

The NP ad posed the question: "Can you imagine the Cape Strangler having the vote?"

It then said: "The ANC and DP can."

— *Quentin Wilson, 76 Darling Street, Cape Town.*

South Newspaper

76 Darling St Cape Town 8001
Tel: 021-462 2012 Fax: 021-461 5407
Editor: Rafiq Rohan

Business manager: Guy Berger
Senior Reporter: Rehana Rossouw,
Sport: Waghied Misbach
Production Editor: Shannon Sherry

Political comment and newsbills by G. Berger and R. Rohan. SOUTH is published by SOUTH Press Services (Pty) Ltd (Reg No 86/05157/07) and printed by Nasionale Media Bpk, PO Box 692, Cape Town, 8000. Copyright on material rests with SOUTH.

**For all your
advertising
requirements,
contact Yvette,
Jessie, Yvonne
or Debbie**

Tel 462-2012

Winnie set to sue paper

Sowetan 11/4/94
■ **ROW BREWING** Leaked secret

ANC report about 'stolen money':

A ROW IS brewing between the East London *Daily Dispatch* newspaper and Mrs Winnie Mandela, the president of the African National Congress Women's League. (243)

According to the newspaper, a secret ANC report, in which it was found that Mandela had allegedly stolen money from and defrauded her own party to the tune of hundreds of thousands of rands, was leaked to a *Dispatch* correspondent in Cape Town.

A statement issued by Mandela at the weekend said she had instructed her lawyers to begin litigation against the *Dispatch*.

The *Dispatch* report said the ANC was still trying to work out how much money was missing.

Mandela, who is widely tipped as a future cabinet minister in the new South Africa, had allegedly refused to appear before an ANC commission into the affair headed by late ANC chief Mr Oliver Tambo, it said.

The ANC commission's report, claimed the *Dispatch*, had found that Mandela had been caught counting piles

of United States dollars and cheques after a visit to the United States

The money was "donations" she had collected during her visit and had allegedly failed to declare to the ANC, the newspaper claims

There were also claims that Mandela had pocketed "substantial" amounts of interest yielded by funds deposited into her account.

These funds were legally destined for the ANC's social welfare department.

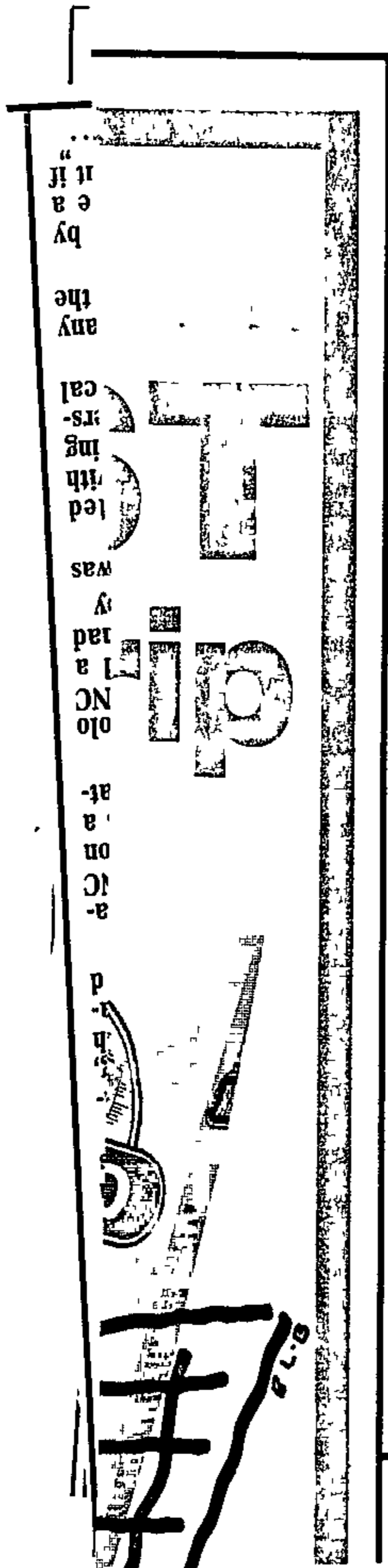
Mandela is also suspected in the ANC report, according to the *Dispatch*, of taking an alleged R190 000 "kickback" on a farm bought by the ANC for returning exiles

The price paid for the Walkerville property was R350 000, yet it was only worth R160 000. Mandela was allegedly a main party in the deal

According to the ANC report, Mandela had allegedly admitted shaving R74 000 off a donation destined for the ANC's social welfare department.

The money had, to date, not been paid back, the newspaper claims — *Sapa*

(Report by Ernest Oelofse, 141 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg)



Board to formally probe Times bid ⁽²⁴³⁾

HENRI du PLESSIS
Staff Reporter *ARLT 14/4/94*

THE Competition Board is to hold a formal investigation into an Argus Newspapers proposal to buy the Cape Times from Times Media Limited

Times Media reacted by reaffirming its intention to honour the proposed transaction, pending the outcome of the investigation, and said it would not sell the newspaper if The Argus could not buy it

Competition board chairman Pierre Brooks said the investigation would enable the board to address public concerns raised by interested parties opposed to the transaction.

"The principal concerns of most parties were the monopolisation of English daily newspapers in the Cape Town area, the possible disappearance of the Cape Times, the editorial independence of the Cape Times and Argus and what was referred to as the 'empowerment of black South Africans'," Dr Brooks said

"It would appear that the most expeditious and effective way of attaining the desired public objectives would be for the board to launch a formal investigation and, as soon as practicable thereafter, to enter into an arrangement with Argus Newspapers to entrench the desired objectives

"Argus Newspapers has indicated it is prepared to give an undertaking to the board that it will meet the desired objectives for a period of three years, after which it shall have the right to terminate the agreement if it so wishes."

Times Media managing director David Kovarsky said: "We believe the investigation will prove there is no violation of the Act on monopolies, and that the verdict will be that we may proceed with the transaction"

FRANK J. ...

IEC bans media from polling stations

■ BY JASPER MORTIMER

Thousands of journalists covering the elections will be banned from polling stations except when ANC president Nelson Mandela, President de

Klerk and the other party leaders cast their ballots, the Independent Electoral Commission said yesterday.

The 1993 Electoral Act prohibits all journalists from coming within 600 m of a polling

station, IEC spokesman Pieter Cronje explained

South African Conference of Editors chairman Richard Steyn, who is also editor-in-chief of The Star, said the ban appeared to be a self-defeating

exercise.

Last night the IEC did think again Cronje said "The IEC has the right not to use the powers it was given by the Act. The IEC has now exercised that discretion"

On Saturday the IEC decided in principle to draw up an amendment to the Act to allow the press to cover the party leaders in the act of voting.

After what Cronje called "re-consideration" last night, the IEC decided it could itself revoke the ban on journalists. But it decided to do so only for press coverage of the voting of the 26 political party leaders.

The ban on the press entering the polling stations, at other times during the election, remains

(47 Sauer St, Johannesburg)

(243) (2019)

Board to probe Cape Times purchase

Star 14/3/94

■ BY DEREK TOMMEY

The Competition Board is to hold a formal investigation into the proposed acquisition of the Cape Times by Argus Newspapers

Board chairman Dr Pierre Brooks said this would enable the board to enter into an appropriate arrangement with Argus Newspapers that would address public interest concerns

Argus Newspapers chairman Doug Band said it was the board's prerogative to institute the probe. ~~(243)~~ (243)

Brooks said it appeared that the public was concerned about three issues — the continued existence of the Cape Times, the editorial independence of the Cape Times and the need for all sections of the community to have a voice in the running of

the newspapers.

He said Argus Newspapers had indicated it was prepared to meet these objectives for a minimum of three years.

Brooks said it should be emphasised that no other newspaper group had given an undertaking relating to editorial independence or to accommodate community interests on their boards.

IEC defends keeping press 600 m away

Journalists condemn voting station ban

Star 15/4/94

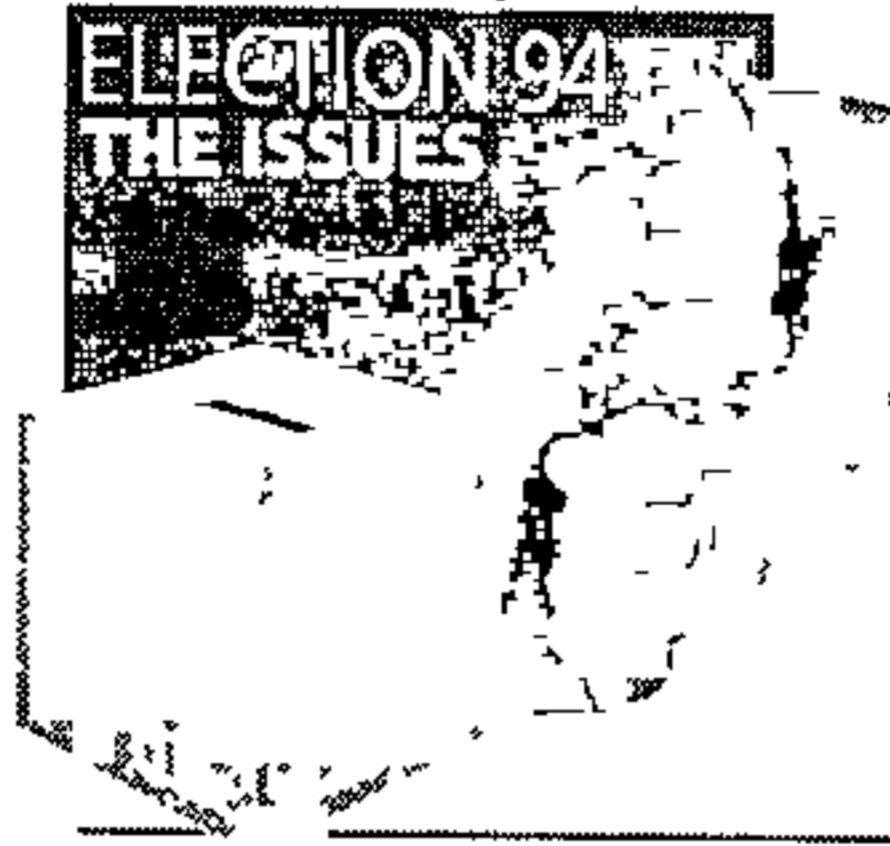
■ BY JASPER MORTIMER

Foreign journalists in South Africa have condemned the Independent Electoral Commission's ban on the media at voting stations during the election as a serious infringement of press freedom

Joe Contreras, chairman of the 200-strong Foreign Correspondents Association, said yesterday the IEC's decision to keep journalists 600 m away from polling stations was ridiculous

The IEC said the 1993 Electoral Act prohibits all journalists from coming within 600 m of the stations. It had decided to revoke the ban to allow press coverage of the leaders of the 26 political parties when they cast their ballots.

IEC spokesman Pieter Cronje said the exception was made because the commission had realised there would be enormous interest in photographing persons such as Nelson Mandela and President de



Klerk when they post their ballots. However, the press would be barred from polling stations when private persons were voting, he said

Secrecy

This was in order to protect voters, particularly in areas such as rural KwaZulu, where anti-election intimidation was likely to be pervasive

"The IEC's guiding principle has been the secrecy of the vote," Cronje said. "If a polling station is bristling with cameras, then the voter will not feel secure."

Contreras said this reason

was not valid. "I don't think a person is going to arrive at a polling station, see a group of journalists, and say 'I'm not going to vote'"

He believed the safety of voters would be compromised not by the press, but by the activities of certain political parties on the ground.

The presence of journalists could moderate the behaviour of political militants, Contreras argued. "By our mere presence, we will be able to make a positive contribution towards ensuring a climate for free and fair elections," he added

Contreras suggested the no-go area around polling stations should be no more than 10 to 20 m. He predicted that up to 2 500 foreign journalists would be covering the election.

South African Conference of Editors chairman Richard Steyn, who is also editor-in-chief of The Star, has said the ban appeared to be a "self-defeating exercise"

(47 Sauer St, Johannesburg)

for community papers

7 / Media & Push

ESTABLISHED earlier this year, Charter Media aims to bring national advertising and credibility to the group of community newspapers it represents, writes **MANDY JEAN WOODS.**

A NEW joint venture company, Charter Media, is attempting to launch the growing number of community newspapers in South Africa into the mainstream of publishing. Charter Media is a joint venture between the Newspaper Marketing Bureau and the Independent Media Diversity Trust. It was formally established in February this year and aims to bring national advertising and credibility to the more than 21 community newspapers it already represents. According to Charter Media marketing director Robin Kruger, there is a desperate need to promote community

newspapers, for a number of reasons.

"We want to help promote the development of a free and independent press, especially community newspapers, which for a long time have been the sole voice of many communities. With the economy now including many more black people, community newspapers are the way to reach them directly."

The problem in the past has been the lack of credibility of community newspapers among national advertisers and advertising agencies, he says.

"Credibility is a key factor. Historically community newspapers have not had the economic strength to flourish. Through Charter Media we hope to change that."

But it won't be charitable help, he points out. "We are not only helping to promote the newspapers and introduce them to advertising agencies, but to the gamut of business that surrounds publishing in this country." Management training is a part of the assistance offered by the company to community

newspaper proprietors

In many parts of South Africa, community newspapers are the only way to reach black consumers, or sometimes it is the only credible medium to reach them. The awareness of community newspapers among advertising agencies has been very low, Kruger says. "In every case we have introduced new newspapers to the agencies in our presentations."

Former editor-in-chief of The Star Harvey Tyson says advertisers and agencies must take note of the fact that many community newspapers have converted from politics and protest to being fully-fledged businesses.

"But they feel they are constantly discriminated against and are considered irrelevant," he observes.

"They get to the right markets and have the readers but advertisers are not yet paying them attention," he says. Charter Media has made it quite clear it does not want to be involved in politics and will not represent publications which align themselves to a political

party, says SBBW media director Janet Watermeyer in the agency's latest newsletter, Cut Through.

"The concept of Charter Media is feasible but I would be concerned about violence which could hinder distribution in certain areas. Also, with the low quality of literacy within this market, these newspapers could well land up wrapping fish and chips."

"I believe that with future media options on the horizon, Charter Media is in for stiff competition. However, used in conjunction with these other media types, it could be a consideration," Watermeyer says.

Among the community newspapers represented by Charter Media are Natal Umlozi Wezandaba, Chatsworth Sun, Abangane Sun, Ogwini, Ladysmith Times, Inkanyezi, in the Cape Indaba, Saamstaan, Namaquanus, Nemato Voice, Toverberg Indaba, in the Transvaal: Indictor, Vaal Vision, Alex Times, Tembisan, West, in the Free State: The Opinion and The Eagle.

IEC to meet press over ban at polling stations

By RAY HARTLEY 17/4/99
SITING

THE Independent Electoral Commission will meet newspaper editors and the Foreign Correspondents' Association this week amid a storm over whether journalists will have access to polling stations on election day.

Journalists object to an IEC decision to enforce a provision of the Electoral Act which bars those not involved in the administration of the election from polling stations (243) (244)

In terms of the Act, the IEC has the discretion to allow journalists into the polling stations, but has decided it will limit access to designated times when only staged photographs of the leaders casting their ballots will be allowed.

The IEC move has led to a stream of complaints from journalists, said IEC spokesman Niki Moore. "Journalists are saying they must be able to say whether or not the election is free and fair, but that's not their role — that's why we have foreign observers and monitors."

The Electoral Act empowers the presiding officer at a polling station to keep the press 1,1km from the booths.

Foreign Correspondents' Association deputy chairman Paul Taylor said IEC chairman Justice Johann Kriegler had given foreign correspondents persuasive arguments on the need for secrecy during polling. "But, as a journalist, I would obviously prefer fuller access," he said.

(News by Ray Hartley, 11 Diagonal Street, Johannesburg)

Strike threat from Mwasa

THE Media Workers Association of South Africa has threatened to go on strike over wages. *Sowetan*

Mwasa has declared a wage dispute with Argus Newspapers, owners of *Sowetan*, *The Star* and *Pretoria News*, among others

The union's acting president, Mr Mathatha Tsedu, said at a news conference yesterday that Mwasa had requested a meeting with the Department of Manpower's Conciliation Board.

If the dispute was not settled, a strike by Mwasa's 1 500 members at Argus Newspapers could be possible by late May, Tsedu said

Mwasa is asking for a 15 percent wage increase for its members. The demand is down from 19 percent in March and Argus has raised its offer to eight percent from seven percent.

Argus chief executive Mr John Featherstone said the company had made a good offer to employees which was above the projected seven percent inflation rate

"The prospect of industrial action is worrying at any time. But we deal with it on the basis that we have made a fair offer and we think that union members will come to that realisation," said Featherstone.

Newsmen allowed at poll stations — IEC

Star
The Independent Electoral Commission is to relax restrictions preventing journalists from coming within a 600 m radius of voting stations.

In the interests of a transparent election, presiding officers at voting stations would be urged to consider permitting two journalists at a time to enter the voting centres, an IEC statement said yesterday.

"The IEC and representatives of local and foreign media organisations have agreed on guidelines for access to voting stations by journalists," IEC spokesman Pieter Cronje said last night.

According to the new guidelines, presiding officers in

21/4/94
charge of voting stations would be advised that they could, at their discretion, allow journalists within the 600 m perimeter around polling stations.

(243) (2019)
Delight

However, presiding officers would retain absolute discretion to exclude anyone from the voting station, Cronje said. No disruption of the voting process could be allowed.

According to Cronje, "the Foreign Correspondents Association and the Conference of Editors have expressed their delight at the new agreement". — Sapa.

(M Schnehage, 141 Commissioner St, Jhb)

TIMES Media Limited managing director David Kovarsky's resignation to pursue his own interests" was caused by his management style — and because he appeared to be too close to the ANC, several sources said this week.

TML remains a profitable company, despite a declining list of newspaper titles after its deal to sell off interests in three newspapers — the *Cape Times*, *Pretoria News* and *Daily News/Natal Mercury* — and the controversial entry into the gaily magazine market with *Playboy*.

Kovarsky (46) this week refused to disclose why he had left or been forced to leave, but he says he does not yet know what his next career move will be.

That Kovarsky isn't talking even now, when his bitterness towards his former employer and main TML shareholder JCI is unspoken but evident, underlines the secrecy which some say marked his management

Knives were out for TML's Kovarsky

243
177 22-28/4/94

An amazing tale of intrigue and internal dispute lies behind the ousting of TML's David Kovarsky. **Reg Rummy** reports

style, a secrecy which included a failure to report certain projects to his own board

His most vociferous detractors are the editors with whom he clashed quite vehemently, and who say he had a complete lack of understanding of how newspapers are supposed to work, including a marked disrespect for editorial independence.

One of those editors, whom Kovarsky had baulked at firing, said publicly a short while ago: "When Kovarsky had the knife at my throat he should have pushed it in. When I

get the chance, I won't hesitate."

Independent financial journal *Finance Week* has reported that *Financial Mail* editor Nigel Bruce and assistant editor David Gleason were trying to put together a management buy-out of TML's core financial magazine, partly because of untenable personal tension between Bruce and Kovarsky.

Writing in the *FM* this week, Gleason puts forward this theory for Kovarsky's departure: "Nor has he left for reasons related to projects he initiated. It is true he indulged in some expensive undertakings, but in the sweep of things,

these are unimportant.

"What raised temperatures was his vision of the future, and the path he intended TML to follow. In the process he fomented memories of a long-standing, bitter and trivial dispute with *FM* editor Nigel Bruce and the ANC's ideology guru, Pallo Jordan."

That refers to a formal lunch where the ANC objected to Bruce's presence because of what they saw as his racist comments in his magazine.

But reading between the lines, the real substance of the grievance against Kovarsky is a perceived *toeing* between TML and the ANC.

The firing of *Playboy* editor Jeremy Gordin is supposed to have been the warning light to the remaining editors. Their grievances were conveyed to TML chairman Pat Retief, who then acted against Kovarsky.

In the end, the straightforward and apparently genial Kovarsky seems to have made too many enemies, even among his executive team.

Cameraman's death: Murder docket opened

Staff Reporter

POLICE have opened a murder docket following the death of top South African press photographer Mr Ken Oosterbroek, who was shot dead in Thokoza during a clash between Inkatha and National Peacekeeping Force (NPKF) members on Monday

East Rand police spokesman Captain Wikus Weber said yesterday that a murder docket had been opened and that other charges could be included after two other photographers were injured in the same incident

(243) CJ 22/4/94

Naming of journalists slammed

Star 22/4/94
The International Press Institute yesterday expressed concern about the electoral law requiring journalists to affix their names to all election stories

In a statement to the Transitional Executive Council, the Independent Media Commission and the Speaker of Parliament, the IPI urged South African authorities to scrap the law.

Intimidate (243)

Section 141 of the Electoral Act rules that the full name and address be given of anyone who reports anything that might affect an election. The law could intimidate and endanger journalists, the IPI said. (243)

"Attacks on journalists' homes have been reported in past elections. Most newspapers publish only their office address. Some ignore the law. Others list home addresses of freelance contributors," said the IPI. (207A)

There was no equivalent provision in any Western election laws, it added. — Sapa.

(K Swart, 141 Commissioner St, Johannesburg)

■ NATAL Newspapers' pay offer of 8 per-
cent was rejected on Thursday by the South
African General and Allied Workers Union,
which declared a dispute. (5) (243)

The union said the offer was unreason-
able in view of the rising cost of living, a
14 percent rise in medical fund contribu-
tions and increases in pension contributions
and taxes.

ARLT 23/4/94

'Drop all censor laws'

Sowetan 29/4/91

THE International Press Institute has urged South Africa's president-in-waiting and the National Assembly to repeal remaining censorship laws.

"Such an action would reinforce the spirit of the freedom of expression clause in the interim constitution and of Section 19 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights," the IPI's complaints commission said in a statement yesterday. The commission was given the task of monitoring intimidation of journalists and to help ensure the free flow of information during the final stages of the election campaign — Sapa. (243)

Journalists beaten up by the AWB

By Glenn McKenzie

MINUTES after journalists were beaten and threatened by angry supporters of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, AWB leader Eugene Terre'Blanche said he did not order the recent spate of bombings in the PWV area

But he sympathised with the reasons behind the attacks.

Terre'Blanche had called a meeting of rightwingers and journalists outside Paul Kruger's farmhouse near Rustenburg "to spread the message to the world that this week's elections were not free and fair"

He predicted that bombings would continue until the new government allowed Afrikaners to have their own *volkstaat*.

He added that journalists who spread the message that the elections were democratic would be seen by the right wing as part of a communist conspiracy

Sowetan 29/4/94
■ **PARTY RALLY** Terre'Blanche says

he did not order spate of bombings:

During the meeting, which attracted several hundred armed and uniformed rightwingers, a black journalist from the *New York Daily News* was repeatedly beaten and driven out of the area.

Reporter Michael Allen said he was grabbed and punched by the members of the AWB.

"Before I knew it someone took a swing at me and they pulled me out of the house," he said.

Allen said the incident had helped bring home to him the harsh reality of life in South Africa

"You understand a little bit about what this country is all about and what this conflict is all about," he said

Other journalists were also kicked, punched and threatened with death

Earlier AWB spokesman Mr Fred

Rundle told journalists that they were safe and welcome at the meeting

Terre'Blanche predicted that Zulus would not accept the results of the elections and would fight the new government. (243)

"In a few days, Zulus will realise they are the largest nation in South Africa yet they lost the elections. They will continue the revolution where they left off," he said.

Terre'Blanche called the elections a "farce" and added that the conditions of these elections would not be accepted in most democratic nations

He added that Afrikaners had an internationally respected right to self-determination and that they would not stop fighting until they received their *volkstaat*

Weekly Mail Reporter

SOME things don't change.

When it came to endorsing political parties for the country's first election, most of the newspapers took their traditional positions: the bulk of the English press backed the Democratic Party, the Afrikaans press voted against the ANC and those papers that identified with the liberation struggle backed "liberation" parties.

The Star, arguing that the "salvation of South Africa lies in liberal democratic principles", left the decision up to its readers after pointing out that none of the parties contesting the election deserved unqualified support, although it said the DP came closest to meeting its criteria. *Business Day* said the DP was most deserving of its readers' votes, citing the

WM 29/4-5/94 (243)
Predicable vote from the press

watchdog role it would have to play over the next five years.

The Sunday Times, *Cape Times*, *Natal Mercury* and *Sunday Tribune* all endorsed the DP.

Urging whites to realise "the liberation of the black masses is finally at hand" and that they had to "accept this and learn to live under a government of national unity", the *Citizen* reminded its readers that proportional representation meant all votes counted and asked them to use them "whatever party you support" to "help determine the future of the country and all its people".

Sunday Nation was the most unequivocal: "Our destiny demands that we vote

for democracy, peace and reconciliation. It demands that we vote for the ANC," a brief front-page editorial commanded.

The Sowetan, the country's biggest black daily, recognised the difficult choice voters faced but said they had an obligation to vote for one of the liberation movements—the ANC or PAC, as Azapo "unfortunately" was not contesting the election.

City Press said Nelson Mandela stood head and shoulders above anyone else as the person who had made the turning-point reached by the country possible and told readers to "vote for a party we can trust with our lives".

Beeld, the Afrikaans-language daily,

backed the NP as a party which had transformed itself into one "representative of all groups, cultures and languages", headed by a man of integrity who needed support to continue his task.

Rapport, the Afrikaans-language Sunday newspaper, backed no party but made an urgent appeal to readers to "vote against the ANC".

An editorial pointed out the "real" ANC had yet to stand up: "when it does, will it be with the face of a Lenin or a Stalin?" it asked.

● *The Weekly Mail & Guardian* last week gave a qualified endorsement to the ANC. "This is the time to vote for change, to be part of the movement for a new non-racial national identity." It said, but warned that the paper would keep a vigilant eye on the ANC commitment to protect human rights and fight corruption.

Media gets credit in fighting censorship

Staff Reporter

INTERNATIONAL observers have congratulated South African journalists for their part in relaxing media restrictions, but warn that almost all the old censorship laws still exist

The International Press Institute yesterday addressed an open letter to South African political leaders after a 13-strong observer team had monitored election campaign coverage

"We deeply regret the death of a photographer and the wounding of two others, but we are pleased to report that journalists were generally free of hindrance from authorities and political parties other than small groups on the right"

The institute congratulated the South African media on their "key and courageous role" in the relaxation of media restrictions

But the IPI noted with "great concern" that all the laws of the earlier age of censorship still existed

The IPI called for the lifting of these laws in line with the freedom of expression guaranteed in South Africa's new constitution

The IPI's complaints commission sat in South Africa during the election campaign's closing stages

Some of the laws that concern the IPI are:

- The Internal Security Act, which permits banning of publications.

- The Defence Act, with its powerful censorship powers

- The Publications Act, which permits wide-ranging censorship.

- The Public Safety Act, which severely restricts the media.

- The Criminal Procedure Act, which is open to abuses that hamper the work of journalists

- The Prisons Act, which makes it virtually impossible to report on the treatment of prisoners

By repealing such measures, the IPI said, the new South Africa could help assure the world that its society was open and free and that the old ways of secrecy and repression had gone forever.

The IPI said it would continue to monitor progress.

ELECTION '94

SABC-TV captures the spirit of the election

Media giants miss Big Story

29/5/94 Star

243

BY DARRYL ACCONE

Two distinctly different pictures of the election have emerged in the electronic media: the local view and the foreign.

TV viewers and radio listeners scrabbling from one to the other in search of enlightenment will only have attained confusion.

Overseas broadcasters have seemingly been in search of Domsday outcomes. Right-wing violence and the IEC's organisational gaffes, with resultant threats to the free and fair nature of the poll, have dominated the agendas of international giants like CNN and Sky

For them, the Big Story has been a cluster of election side-shows, slickly and glibly packaged into digestible sound bites and dramatic footage. Thus it was that yesterday morning, CBS evening news (on Channel 3's Sky broadcast time) focused on the Jan Smuts car bomb, with the election relegated to the tail-end of Dan Rather's report.

Terrorist thriller

But South Africa's election is no soap opera or terrorist thriller. It is the story of a fractured country embarking on a remarkable self-healing process; a journey to nationhood. It is a unique story, but its essentials comprise good, constructive news, and the media is not always adept at dealing with that.

What's meat for South Africa is poison for the international media. They have some factors in their defence: having brought the world "The Gulf War Live", CNN always has a hard act to follow. The countless international radio and TV crews here have Bosnia, or the Nagoya plane crash, as more typical frames of reference.

But there has been a lamentable failure to explain the societal and personal transformation

FOREIGN journalists have been struck by fear of 'non-event headlines' — but no violence is, of course, the real story

taking place as South Africans stream to the polls. The international media has been struck by fear of what eminent journalist Max du Preez called "non-event headlines: no violence, no intimidation, no drive-by shootings"

That, of course, is the real story. As Du Preez noted on SABC-TV's *Election '94* coverage, "the airport bomb aside, Wednesday was probably the most peaceful day of the year"

Peace was springing up everywhere — in the long voting queues under the sweltering sun or in the damp rain of the Cape — but the overseas media saw and heard only bombs.

That led to the venerable purveyor of correctness, the BBC, broadcasting news of a bomb blast in Rosebank on Wednesday. It later transpired that the police had discovered a car bomb and disposed of it.

Getting news of the explosion before it was history was local station Radio 702. Indeed, 702 listeners hadn't heard it all before — and didn't hear much about the station's blunder after it retracted its reports.

While 702's *Eyewitness News* team coverage had an on-the-ground feeling that the mini-movie CNN and Sky clips often lacked, it was SABC-TV's *Election '94* Channels 1 and 2 that did best in reflecting the spirit and meaning of the poll.

SABC-TV reporters in the field were frequently awful, but they were sufficiently hard-working to bring an affecting picture of the election to viewers. Not as

slick as the Allen Pizeys or Peter Arnetts (both of CNN) of the world, they nevertheless had a better understanding of what the election meant to those taking part in it — and they conveyed that.

The SABC journalists were clumsy and sometimes nervous, but they had empathy with their subject. The CNN superstars had charisma, zippy presentation and a great script — to another story, perhaps the one they'd like to be covering.

In the studio, anchors like Lester Venter and Freek Robinson did a fine job of briefing watchers on the larger implications of what was happening in the field. The studio discussions and panels of experts produced articulate debate and a plethora of viewpoints.

Hotel room

Strangely, "both sides of the story" had been promised by Peter Arnett, the world-renowned CNN reporter, when he was interviewed by Radio 702 earlier this week. Arnett, you will recall, reported the first days of the Gulf War from his Baghdad hotel room.

What Arnett has given us resembles an advertising agency client presentation. It will please CNN headquarters in Atlanta and the network's viewers, inured to its style-without-too-much-substance approach. But it trivialises what's happening during this auspicious week.

In retrospect, the CNN packaging of the election comes as no surprise. Earlier this year, at the launch of the ANC's election manifesto, I watched aghast as a CNN correspondent filed a story full of prognoses of civil war, concluding with just the slightest hint of what the ANC was presenting. It upped the adrenalin, but didn't really reflect the event.

Foreign TV networks resist police demands

(243) ARG 30/4/94
JOHANNESBURG. Two foreign television networks have lodged an urgent application in the Rand Supreme Court for an interdict to prevent police from seizing their footage of the Zulu march through Johannesburg last month.

The ARD German Television Network and ABC News Intercontinental Incorporated asked Mr Justice Nugent to declare a warrant issued by a Johannesburg magistrate authorising police to search their premises and seize tapes invalid.

The tapes contain footage of the Zulu march through the streets of central Johannesburg on March 28 in which 53 people were killed.

Police said that ITN, WTN, Sky News and Reuters had provided their footage of the march.

ABC Africa assignment manager Mark Foley said in an affidavit it was vital for his company to be seen as impartial and the handing over of material to police could compromise ABC's confidential sources and endanger employees' lives.

He said various other sources of information were available to the police regarding the march and it was inappropriate and grossly unreasonable for the Law and Order Minister to attempt to exercise "drastic powers" over ABC.

ARD Johannesburg bureau chief Andreas Cichowicz said the violence during the march was witnessed by thousands of other people, including policemen.

Police could use these people as a source of information rather than demand ARD footage.

Mr Justice Nugent is expected to give judgment next week. — Sapa.

by May 4 1994

Survey: Belgium has world's freest press ⁽²⁴³⁾

APRIL 4/5/94

WASHINGTON. — Belgium enjoys the world's freest press, followed by New Zealand, Australia and Norway, according to a survey released by the human rights group Freedom House

Tied for fifth place were Denmark, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland in the survey, that looked for "vibrancy, diversity and lack of government encumbrance" of the press.

The United States followed, in a tie with Luxemburg

The survey, titled "Press Freedom Worldwide 1994," and released yesterday, gauges the extent to which newspapers, radio and television permit a free flow of ideas to and from the public in 186 countries.

It said the United States lost points because of the increasing dominance of major media groups and said that "skyrocketing costs of publishing and broadcasting" tend to make US editorial content more vulnerable to the influence of ratings and advertising.

Freedom House said the least free press was in Iraq. Others in the bottom echelon were Cuba, Tajikistan, North Korea, Burma, Turkmenistan, Sudan and China.

Of the 186 countries listed, two — Afghanistan and Somalia —

were deemed impossible to monitor "because central governance has broken down, repression is complete and data is unreliable."

Leonard Sussman, a Freedom House scholar in international communications who was the study co-ordinator, said "Although the Press in the freest countries is the watchdog over government, many governments — even in some democracies — are seeking to be watchdogs over the news media."

The study said Press freedom peaked worldwide with post-communist liberalisations in 1989 but has declined since

The survey covered January 1, 1993 to April 15 of this year and was released on the United Nations' International Press Freedom Day.

Overall, 68 countries, or about 37 percent, were judged to fall in the broad category of having "free" media, meaning journalists are "nearly free" of political pressure and other interference.

The Press was called "partly free" in 64 countries, or 34 percent, while 54 countries, 29 percent, were said to have a Press that is "not free," indicating a high degree of government control. — Sapa-Reuter

Board agrees to Argus takeover of Cape Times

ALG 5/5/94

(243)

Staff Reporter

THE Competition Board has approved the purchase of the Cape Times by Argus Newspapers

The takeover was opposed by several groups, including a black business consortium which was prepared to make a counter-bid

The buy-out was approved after agreement on a three-year guarantee of editorial independence and the appointment of two non-executive directors to represent community interests on a separate board for Argus Newspapers' Cape operations.

Competition Board chairman Pierre Brooks said the agreement had been restricted to three years because of South Africa's changing situation

"Given the fluidity of South Africa's political situation at the moment, there may be new legislation introduced which may affect the agreement."

Neither the board nor Argus wished to be committed to an agreement cast in stone

Doug Band, chairman of Argus Newspapers, said he was delighted with the ruling.

Dr Brooks said the board had not put Argus Newspapers under any pressure to include two independent directors on the board. This had arisen out of discussions with Argus

Explaining the board's decision, Dr Brooks said "Certain transactions involving Anglo American Corporation, Johannesburg Consolidated Investments, Independent Newspapers Plc, Argus Newspapers and Times Media elicited expressions of concern from a number of persons and associations

"These related principally to the view that the transactions would result in the monopolisation of the English daily newspapers in the Cape Town area and the demise of the Cape Times as a separate newspaper, or the undermining of its editorial independence

"It must also be mentioned that certain parties indicated they were willing and able to purchase all the shares that Anglo/JCI had undertaken to sell to Independent Newspapers

"Independent Newspapers hitherto has not controlled or had a stake in any newspaper company in South Africa For this reason, as a non-competitor in the relevant market, the purchase by it of a controlling interest in Argus Newspapers is not a transaction that constitutes an acquisition as defined in the Maintenance and Promotion of Competition Act.

"Furthermore there is no other specific legislation regulating the acquisition of newspapers or restricting the extent of foreign ownership of the Press.

"In the circumstances the board has no authority to stop the sale of shares to Independent Newspapers or to direct or recommend that Anglo/JCI should sell their shares in

Argus Newspapers to a particular South African party

"Since both the Cape Times and The Argus at present are ultimately controlled by Anglo/JCI, the board accepts that a monopoly situation probably exists currently in the Cape Town area in respect of English daily newspapers

"Since, the Act does not distinguish between qualitatively different categories of a monopoly situation, and the existence or non-existence of a monopoly situation cannot be affected by a change of the person or persons exercising control, the relevant class of business, the transfer of control over the Cape Times and The Argus from Anglo/JCI to Independent Newspapers does not alter the status quo

"It should be borne in mind that under South African law, in common with the position in other jurisdictions, it is not presumed that monopolies per se are illegal or against the public interest

"In fact even in the United States, which arguably has the most stringent rules on anti-trust, the Supreme Court has held that illegal monopolisation requires a showing that the defendant (a) has monopoly power, which is substantial market power, and (b) has exercised that power to the detriment of competitors and/or consumers.

"The board has always been and continues to be unequivocal in its acceptance of the importance of independent sources of information, news and views This view is reinforced by section 15(1) of the new constitution which entrenches the right to freedom of speech and expression and which includes the freedom of the Press and other media

"Although section 15 of the constitution may well suffice to ensure the editorial independence of the Cape Times, The Argus and other newspapers in future, the board has entered into an arrangement with Argus Newspapers that has been confirmed by the Minister for Public Enterprises and will be published in Friday's Government Gazette, in terms of which Argus Newspapers has specifically undertaken that, following the sale of shares to Independent Newspapers, the two newspapers shall retain their editorial independence and integrity

"In addition, Argus Newspapers has agreed that the Cape Times and The Argus shall continue to be published as separate newspapers and to incorporate a separate board of directors for its Cape operations to which shall be appointed a number of non-executive directors chosen from the Cape region to represent the respective communities served by the two newspapers.

"The arrangement is for an initial period of three years and recognises that to ensure the commercial viability of the newspapers it may be necessary to co-ordinate and rationalise certain of their activities without, in the process, undermining any of the key undertakings that were given"

Consortium attacks decision on Cape Times

243 7/5/94
HENRI du PLESSIS

Weekend Argus Reporter

A ROW has broken out between the Competition Board and the Western Cape Media Consortium over the board's decision to allow The Argus to buy the Cape Times

In a strongly worded statement, the consortium of black businessmen attacked the board for issuing a final decision before the deadline set for further representations

Board chairman Pierre Brooks, however, insisted the board had acted within its power

The consortium's statement said the board's decision was "a flagrant violation" of the law and was actionable in terms of the country's constitution, contrary to natural justice and based on incorrect premises

The decision to allow The Argus to buy the Cape Times was announced on May 4, 10 days before the final deadline for further written representations, the consortium said

The consortium had been preparing further detailed representations which would have proved the sale to be monopolistic, but had missed the boat because the board made its decision before the deadline.

This made the decision reviewable in law, claimed the consortium

"The consortium is constrained to express its deep and earnest concern that an administrative authority which has invited representations to be filed by the public by a particular day has seen fit unilaterally to ignore the concern of interested parties and to arrive at a decision prior to the cut-off date which it had stipulated for the submission of written representations," a spokesman said

"The consortium does not accept that this course is consonant with the norms of justice in our country.

"The consortium is now considering its position and will take all steps necessary in the interest of the public of the Western Cape from whom its members are drawn and who have a very real interest in the maintenance of competition in the English-language Press which serves it"

Dr Brooks said it was not up to the board to interpret the constitution, but merely to work in terms of the Act under which it was constituted.

"We are empowered by the Act to work according to special procedures and we decided we had already heard all argument pertinent to the case.

"It is not up to the board to decide what would be in the best interests of the public in the Western Cape regarding their newspapers.

"We are only allowed to decide the merits of the transaction before us. As such, we could only arrive at the decision we did. Had we decided otherwise, The Argus could have taken legal steps.

Dr Brooks said if the consortium felt it had certain rights within the law, it should take the matter to the courts.

Bid to amend Bill of Rights

AMANDA VERMEULEN

THE Freedom of Expression Institute has launched a campaign to amend the Bill of Rights because it is concerned about limits on freedom of speech and the right to information, says deputy chairman Raymond Louw.

The FXI was formed in January after a merger between the Campaign for Open Media and the Anti-Censorship Group.

The campaign, to be launched next month, would push for a parliamentary Act to entrench greater freedoms in these areas.

Co-ordinator Jeanette Minnie said FXI was unsatisfied with a Bill which allowed for a right to information only if other rights were threatened. Rights of access and non-access should be defined, especially where national and state security, confidential financial information and personal health details were concerned.

Minnie said the campaign would aim to promote access to information and freedom of expression to first degree rights. It would also call for the recognition of group and individual rights.

SA 'must modernise its industrial plant capacity'

CAPE TOWN — SA businessmen should speed up their investment in modernising SA's aging industrial plant capacity if it wished to be competitive in world markets, Industrial Development Corporation chairman Christo Wiese said last night.

At an SA Institute of International Affairs function, Wiese said government should also reduce trade barriers and tariffs — a move to which it was already committed under GATT — reduce or even abolish exchange control mechanisms and remove the red tape associated with dealing with other countries.

He said there was agreement in business circles that the new government should be seen to quell violence and crime, and that it should create an international image of economic control and competence.

Stellenbosch University African Politics Prof Willie Breytenbach said the re-emergence of SA into the international community, which was being divided into trading blocs, raised trade bargaining prospects, such as possible joint bargaining by African commodity producers on

EDWARD WEST

prices. SA could not afford to be antagonistic towards the US, the world's dominant economic power.

As the strongest southern African country, SA would also have to adopt a benevolent attitude towards its neighbours, Breytenbach said. SA should also not be seen to be using its production strength to de-industrialise other African countries. SA businesses should not only exploit, but contribute to the development of other African markets.

Institute director John Barrat said that with the admittance to international organisations, institutions and functions, SA should not overreach itself in relation to its commitments, with intervention in Rwanda a possible case in point.

US Vice-President Al Gore's request before the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as President, that SA intervene in Rwanda was strange, especially considering the fact that it was proving difficult for the US administration to get congress approval for US foreign intervention.

O'Reilly spells out his intentions . . .

ARG 20/5/94
(243)

Ahead of the pre-listing of the statement of Argus Newspapers next week, PETER FABRICIUS of The Argus Foreign Service in Washington talks to Independent Newspapers chairman Tony O'Reilly about his newly acquired interests in South Africa and his plans for the future.

On the unbundling of Anglo/JCI's holdings in the South African Press

I think it's going to provide increased diversity for a rapidly changing society. The objective of the new owners of Argus newspapers — and I stress we are major shareholders but not the owners — must be to have regional boards of directors for each of the three main centres — Johannesburg/Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban — representative of all shades of political opinion and cultural diversity in surely one of the most exciting societies in the world today.

This is expressed unambiguously in the pre-listing statement. In Cape Town there is already a commitment to the Competition Board that the new board of directors will be representative of all those interests that make the Cape one of the great mosaics of South Africa. We bring the international dimension into South Africa, which is vital to its future.

We publish newspapers in Australia, where we have 13 dailies and 35 weeklies. In the UK we are the largest shareholder with 29.9 percent of the Independent and the largest publisher of regional weekly newspapers in the London and South Counties areas. And of course in Ireland we are the leading publisher.

We have represented on our board a wide diversity of people including Ben Bradlee, former and most distinguished editor of the Washington Post, on whose board I have sat for the last seven years. Plus (several) very distinguished Irish people drawn from all the conflicting strands of Irish opinion. I think having a shareholder like that in the new Argus adds to the international network that South Africa will need to achieve its goals.

On his links with Africa

I think we bring what South Africa needs, which is a great love of Africa generated by

my own experiences there, and a sustained support for the policies of Africa.

Heinz was the first overseas company to back Robert Mugabe after independence, when we bought the Olivine company in 1983. We have a 51/49 venture with the government of Zimbabwe, employing 3 500 people in Bulawayo and Harare, which would claim to be the most successful joint venture in Zimbabwe since independence. It was through Robert Mugabe that I met President Mandela.

We are the sort of partners who have been supporters, not short-term opportunistic supporters, of Africa and the aims of a plural society for the consistent long term.

On his plans to develop journalistic excellence

Argus Newspapers intends to play its full part in implementing a drive for editorial excellence, affirmative action and improvement of product. We have been very innovative elsewhere. We look to the twin goals of better product and more efficiency to produce a profitable and expanding business and provide employment opportunities.

On criticism of the acquisition

There is always a natural concern in any society about foreign "interference". Nothing could be further from the case. We are not interruptive — we are participants and we bring skills and a wide awareness with us, as we demonstrated in Australia and Great Britain.

In addition, it must be very clear to everyone today that newspapers compete with all forms of communication and satellite television which is the unique and universal phenomenon of our age. CNN's influence and images are available on demand in all countries around the world.

My own view is that any concern about "foreign ownership" ignores the reality of the new world we live in, which is by its nature totally international.

On suggestions that his friendship with President Mandela might lead to Argus showing an ANC bias

Anybody who has ever known me over the 25 years I have been involved as an investor in the press will know that non-interference in the editorial process and the sanctity of the board are paramount principles by which I have operated, I think successfully.

What I will guarantee is that the new representative boards of directors will direct the editorial policies of the papers. And insofar as Dr Mandela has proven to the world and the rest of South Africa that he reflects, personally and politically, the values of Africa, in that sense, his views and the views of the ANC will be reflected through the boards and through the editors of the papers.

On the values he would seek to uphold

My own view is that the values that I believe have been expressed by the people of South Africa at this miraculous election are the values which we would wish to represent in our newspapers, and they are about integrity and sharing and a certain amount of sacrifice.

There are going to be, undoubtedly, moments of anguish. And I would hope that the newspapers would reflect independent values, if there were those moments of difficulty. I believe President Mandela wishes to have a free press and that he will champion it even if at times it is not always to his liking.

I also believe the press in South Africa has got to see its role in a constructive way, because the problems of building the new South Africa are much more difficult than those of running a conventional society like Denmark or Holland or even the United States. And we certainly, in Argus, should try to express the very positive achievements of the country in the next five, predictably difficult, years.

On whether he intends playing any political role in SA

No, what I see myself being is an advocate for South Africa in the same way as I have been an advocate for Zimbabwe South Africa needs advocates overseas Capital has a universal characteristic it is scarce

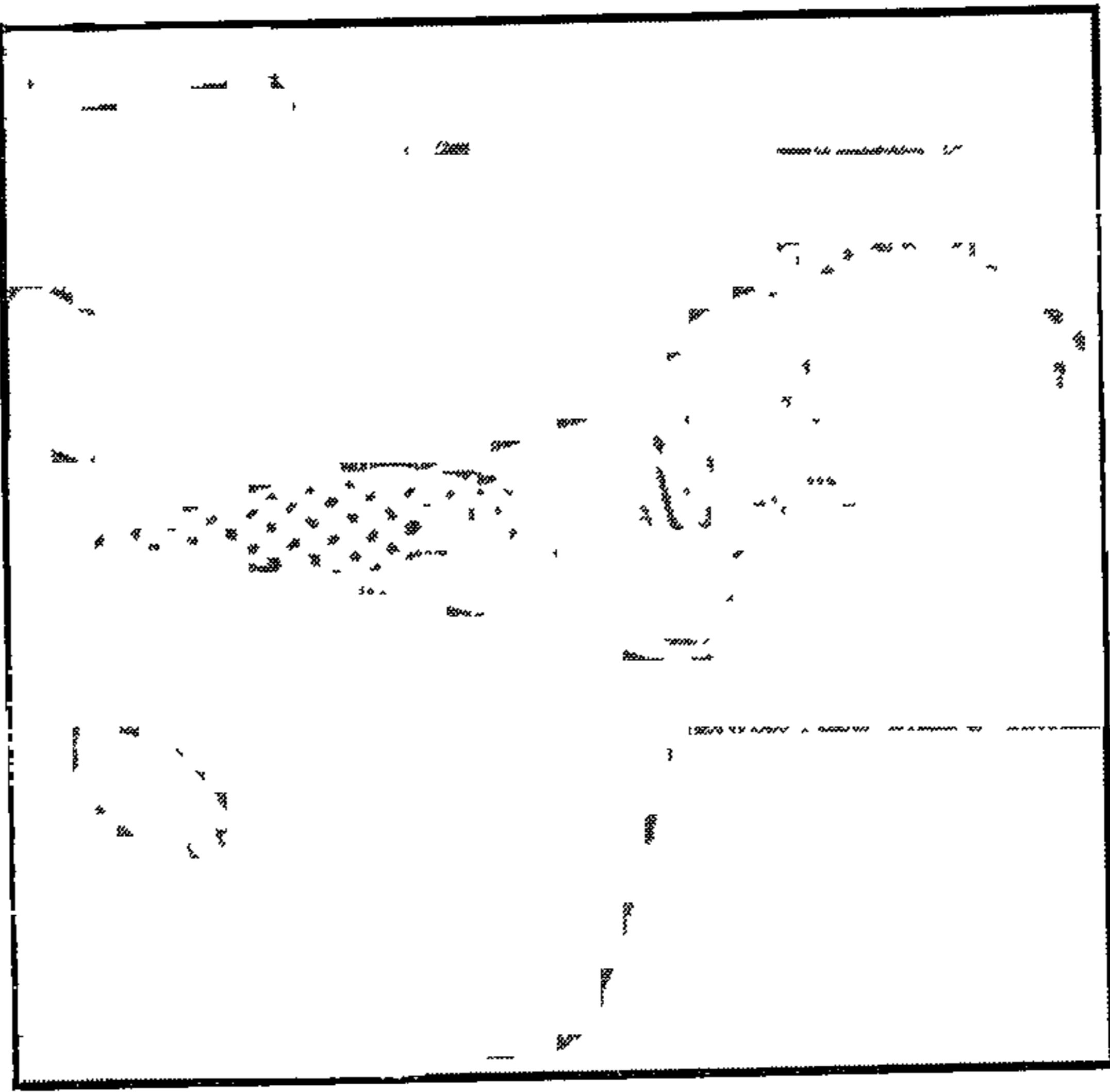
And when you think of the competitive appetites of the Far Eastern market and the lately-liberated states of Eastern Europe and the opportunities that chaos brings in Russia and when you think that a newly-disciplined South America provides real opportunities for international capital, South Africa needs advocacy and performance of the highest order if it is going to secure the necessary heavy foreign investment

That is a condition precedent to any sort of super economic performance And I do believe it will require super economic performance to satisfy all the appetites that have been released

So I see myself as someone who has been a member of the board of companies as diverse as Mobil, Bankers Trust, General Electric, the New York Stock Exchange, the Washington Post, and

PETER FABRICIUS of The Argus Foreign Service in Washington talks to Independent Newspapers chairman Tony O'Reilly about his newly acquired interests in South Africa and his plans for the future.
(243) ART 23/5/94

I intend to beat the drum for Africa



TONY O'REILLY "Africa was enormously good to me and I have a debt to pay. To me South Africa is not just an investment, it's a homecoming."

Put Irish advertising into it and produce a 50-50 newspaper called the Star Each evening the Star in London puts together its plate, puts it up on satellite, and we pull down the plates in Dublin and look at our own paste-up against theirs The paper is 80 percent Irish, 20 percent English It started with 23 000 circulation five years ago — it now has a total circulation of 100 000 It's the tabloid success story of the British Isles

That's the way newspaper groups of the future are going to have to be innovative — with modern technology, satellite transmission, instant news

With a young society that is audio-visual, not formally trained as we were to read, you're going to have to produce much more visually-commanding and interesting newspapers I think that's going to be a challenge to the Argus And I think we will be enormously helpful because of our own successful experience in creating a highly-profitable group with Express Newspapers

On whether the Star (Johannesburg) might become that kind of paper



Cla rman U... roce...
Manufacturers of America.
the second-largest organiza-
tion of its kind in America,
using the pulpit of my own
position to beat the drum for
Africa and I intend to do so

Africa was enormously
good to me and I have a debt
to pay. I went to Africa as an
18-year-old unknown, un-
aware and unsung and in the
winter of 1955, I and another
19-year-old called Tom van
Vollenhoven had the opportu-
nity to share a glorious joint
experience which changed the
world for both of us. We were
never the same again. To me
(South Africa) is not just an
investment, it's a homecom-
ing.

On how much time he will spend in SA

It's the greatest ambition
of my life to spend more time
in South Africa, although I
won't be a member of the
board of Argus Newspapers,
unfortunately. The opportuni-
ty might come when I step
down as chief executive of
Heinz, which will not be be-
fore 1996. I am also the chief
shareholder in Heinz, so I
have a particular reason to
stay there.

On recent developments in SA

It is an admonition to the
rest of the world, which has
thought itself so advanced but
has been taught a cautionary
tale by South Africa. The suc-
cess of De Klerk and of Man-
dela is an admonition to all of
those like Northern Ireland
who have not realised that
compromise is not a synonym
for surrender, but is the ge-
nius of intelligence.

On Heinz's intentions in SA

South Africa is the most ex-
citing market in Africa. We're
in Egypt, we're in Zimbabwe.
South Africa is the most so-
phisticated, has the best in-
frastucture, it is well-served
in many of the product areas
we are in and therefore it
will not be easy to fight our
way into the marketplace
there.

But we are full of ambition
and are in discussion with
two major South African do-
mestic manufacturers. It is
our fervent hope that we will
find a way to invest in South
Africa in the next 12 months.

We are one of the world's
largest fishing companies —
the Starkist tuna brand is
ours — and we will certainly
be looking at the South Afri-
can fishing industry in addi-
tion to the extraordinarily
good agricultural infrastruc-
ture to see if there is an op-
portunity for us.

We took a risk in 1983 when
it was not particularly popu-
lar to invest in Zimbabwe and
we have been well rewarded.
We have played our role, very
effectively, in building em-
ployment and exports from
Zimbabwe. And we are much
encouraged by our experience
there to invest in South
Africa.

On his other business interests investing in SA

I am chairman and princi-
pal stockholder of Waterford-
Wedgewood. I certainly hope
their products will find a
home there.

On shares in Argus

I hope Argus shares will be

good shares, as good as the
shares of Independent News-
papers and APN (Austalian
Provincial Newspapers) in
Australia. We issued APN
shares for one dollar in May
1992 and they are now worth
1.9 dollars. We have doubled
market capitalisation in two
years. The combined value of
our newspaper capitalisation
in Australia and Ireland is
850 million dollars or about
R3 billion. We've done very
well for our shareholders, and
we hope we will do as well
for our shareholders in
Africa.

On the unbundling of Anglo/JCI's holdings in the South African Press

I think it's going to provide
increased diversity for a rap-
idly changing society. The ob-
jective of the new owners of
Argus newspapers — and I
stress we are major share-
holders but not the owners —
must be to have regional
boards of directors for each
of the three main centres —
Johannesburg/Pretoria, Cape
Town and Durban — repre-
sentative of all shades of po-
litical opinion and cultural di-
versity in surely one of the
most exciting societies in the
world today.

This is expressed unambig-
uously in the pre-listing state-
ment. In Cape Town there is
already a commitment to the
Competition Board that the
new board of directors will be
representative of all those in-
terests that make the Cape
one of the great mosaics of
South Africa. We bring the in-
ternational dimension into
South Africa, which is vital to
its future.

We publish newspapers in
Australia, where we have 13
dailies and 35 weeklies. In the
UK we are the largest share-
holder with 29.9 percent of
the Independent and the larg-
est publisher of regional
weekly newspapers in the
London and South Counties
areas. And of course in Ire-
land we are the leading pub-
lisher.

We have represented on
our board a wide diversity of
people including Ben Bradlee,
former and most distin-
guished editor of the Wash-
ington Post, on whose board I
have sat for the last seven
years. Plus (several) very dis-
tinguished Irish people drawn
from all the conflicting
strands of Irish opinion. I
think having a shareholder
like that in the new Argus
adds to the international net-
work that South Africa will
need to achieve its goals.

On the range and performance of his media interests

We are professional news-
paper people. We know our
business. We have been im-
mensely successful financial-
ly. If you invested a thousand
pounds in Independent News-
papers in 1973, the year I ac-
quired the papers, and you re-
invested your dividend since
then, you'd have 154 000
pounds today, a compound
growth rate of 28 percent an-
nually.

We are also major players
in the cable television busi-
ness — our partners in Ire-
land are TCI of the United
States — the largest televi-
sion cable company in the
world with nine million sub-

scribers. We have over
100 000 subscribers in our ca-
ble network, which is compa-
rable to M-Net. We are also
in the outdoor advertising
business. We have the largest
transit advertising company
in Australia and the number
two in specialty outdoor ad-
vertising in France.

On his links with Africa

I think we bring what South
Africa needs, which is a great
love of Africa generated by
my own experiences there,
and a sustained support for
the policies of Africa.

Heinz was the first over-
seas company to back Robert
Mugabe after independence,
when we bought the Olivine
company in 1983. We have a
51/49 venture with the gov-
ernment of Zimbabwe, em-
ploying 3 500 people in Bul-
wayo and Harare, which
would claim to be the most
successful joint venture in
Zimbabwe since indepen-
dence. It was through Robert
Mugabe that I met President
Mandela.

We are the sort of partners
who have been supporters,
not short-term opportunistic
supporters, of Africa and the
aims of a plural society for
the consistent long term.

I eschewed investment (in
SA) for Heinz until we had the
opportunity to invest in the
sort of society that is being
created now. And of course I
was chairman of Safe (the SA
Free Elections Fund) which
raised 7.5 million dollars
(about R28 million) for the
election process over eight
months.

On his plans to develop journalistic excellence and institute affirmative action

Argus Newspapers intends
to play its full part in imple-
menting a drive for editorial
excellence, affirmative action
and improvement of product
elsewhere. We have been very innovative
and more efficient to pro-
duce a profitable and expand-
ing business and provide em-
ployment opportunities.

Within our group of pub-
lications in Australia, South
Africa, the United Kingdom
and Ireland, we will be able
to provide mobility at a jour-
nalistic level so that people
get an opportunity to move
between companies and un-
derstand other political sys-
tems and cultures — the
rummoustious Australian one,
the fractious Irish one with
the particular problems of
Northern Ireland and the UK
at both local and national lev-
el.

On the kinds of innovations which could be introduced

Let me give you an exam-
ple. We are one of the few
groups that have launched an
absolutely *de novo* newspa-
per in our own country. The
Star is a hybrid, 50 percent
owned by Express Newspa-
pers in London and 50 percent
by us. Our view was that the
best way to exploit the gap in
the market was to put togeth-
er Irish editorial coverage
and Irish sport with English
soccer, international news
and particularly English
news.

So, but see there may be
another paper I don't see any
change in the Star per se. I
think the Star is a command-
ing paper of record and what
we want to do is keep pace
with the obviously-increased
literacy that will parallel im-
proved education. But there
may be other new product of-
ferings that we must look to.

The one thing Argus news-
papers will not be in the fu-
ture is complacent. They will
be exciting newspapers to
work in and exciting newspa-
pers to read.

On The Argus's board

The board will be expanded
to represent the wider South
African community by ap-
pointing independent, non-ex-
ecutive directors. The chair-
man of Argus Newspapers in
the future will be a non-exec-
utive chairman and a South
African. The intention is also
to activate local boards in the
Transvaal, Natal and the
Cape, representing the com-
munities and regions which
the newspapers serve.

On Independent Newspapers' reception in SA

We were pleased to be very
warmly welcomed by Presi-
dent Mandela when we made
the acquisition. We were very
encouraged by his reception
of our investment. We made
an investment in South Africa
as a vote of confidence at a
time when issues were not
quite as clear as they are to-
day, five months later. And
we're honoured to be there
and determined to play our
part as a participant in the
new South Africa.

■ An abbreviated version of
this interview appeared in
The Argus on Friday.

Argus Newspapers set for June listing

JOHANNESBURG — Argus Newspapers is scheduled for listing on the JSE on June 13. (243)

According to the pre-listing statement the company achieved unaudited turnover of R706,7m and earnings of R29m in the financial year to March 1994. CJ 24/5/94

These figures were adjusted to reflect sustainable earnings. The adjusted pro-forma earnings take account of discounted operations such as the Sunday Star and the sale of the majority interest in the Sowetan, and also include the effects of the acquisition of properties and the recent purchase of Times Media Limited's minority interests in Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria. Interest flowing from the effects of these transactions has also been brought to account in these adjustments.

The directors said dividends would be covered by earnings between three and four times.

The pro forma track record is 1991

R11,9-million, 1992 R21,3-million, 1993 R25,6-million, 1994 R29,1-million

The company forecasts turnover of R795-million and earnings of R32,6-million in the current financial year to March 1995.

The listing would be structured via an unbundling transaction, which was approved by the Commissioner for Inland Revenue. It was proposed that Argus Newspapers shares would be declared as a dividend in specie on a one-for-one basis to all Argus shareholders registered at the effective date.

The pre-listing statement said Argus Holdings and JCI directors would retire from the Argus Newspapers Board prior to the listing. Liam Healy and James Parkinson — respectively managing director and financial director of Independent — would simultaneously join the board.

An Argus Holding general meeting to approve the listing would be held on June 8 — Sapa

Argus Newspapers reach deadlock

Mwasa strike ballot

By Ike Motsapi
Labour Reporter

THE Media Workers Association of South Africa will ballot its members for possible strike action next week after wage negotiations with Argus management deadlocked last week.

The balloting of more than 1 500 Mwasa members will be held next Wednesday.

The Argus Group's human resources manager, Mr Roger Wellstead, was not available for comment.

His office consistently said he was out attending a meeting.

Mwasa has sought the support of political organisations, trade unions, civic groups, churches and community organisations to help it "achieve our

democratic demands"

The National Council of Trade Unions said it would support Mwasa in whatever action it decides to take.

The Congress of South African Trade Union is also expected to join Nactu in supporting the union (243)

Mwasa and the management of Argus failed to reach agreement on salary increases at a Conciliation Board hearing held in Johannesburg on May 19 (153)

The union is demanding an across-the-board salary increase of 15 percent for its members, while management made a final offer of eight percent.

Mwasa opened its salary demand at 19 percent but lowered this during rounds of negotiations with management (153)

Yesterday Mwasa general secretary

Mr Sithembele Khala accused management of not negotiating in good faith.

He said: "The union is left with no other option but to ballot its members for strike action."

"A yes vote gives us various options which means we can continue negotiating, go for mediation, have another conciliation hearing or alternatively exercise our right and go on a legal strike," Khala added.

He said management proposed to the union that it was prepared to offer members a 10 percent salary increase if the implementation date was delayed by 10 weeks. Khala said the union rejected the offer because this would mean that "in the end our members would have still received salary increases of eight percent over a 12-month period."

ppling strike ● New constitution 'can't deliver'

Mwasa, SAUJ in strike ballot

By Ike Motsapi
Labour Reporter

Sowetan 30/5/94
■ WAGE TALKS Conciliation

Board talks provides no solution:

THE SOUTH AFRICAN Union of Journalists will ballot its members for possible strike action on Wednesday after wage talks with Argus management collapsed

This follows an announcement by the Media Workers Association of South Africa last week that it would also ballot its more than 1 500 members employed by Argus on the same day

The SAUJ said in a statement wage negotiations failed to resolve the dispute at a Conciliation Board meeting last week.

SAUJ *The Star* branch co-ordinator Marika Sboros said: "Our union is also preparing for a strike ballot on Wednesday."

SAUJ demands a 13 percent across-the-board salary increase. Management is offering nine percent from the middle of May (243)

Mwasa *The Star* branch secretary Thabo Leshilo and Sboros issued a joint statement which reads: "Management is attempting to drive a wedge between the two unions because they are aware of our collective strength"

"A yes vote does not mean an immediate strike. It is merely the first step in opening up avenues of creative and legal industrial action.

"It is important that union members stand united to achieve our com-

mon objectives."

Mwasa demands an across-the-board salary increase of 15 percent for its members while management made a final offer of eight percent.

Mwasa opened its demand at 19 percent but lowered this during wage talks.

Mwasa and Argus failed to reach agreement on salary increases at a Conciliation Board hearing on May 19

Mwasa has sought the support of political, trade unions, civic, church and community organisations.

The National Council of Trade Unions and the Congress of South African Trade Union have pledged support.

NEWS FEATURE South African journalists have been victimised for decades

By Russel Molefe

PRESS-BASHING became so popular a sport of the previous government that journalists risked detention for being critical to the injustices which were perpetuated

Various laws and rulings were instituted, newspapers banned and journalists whisked to courts — some ended up in jail for several months — to force the media to publish only what was prescribed by those in power

Changes initiated in 1990 saw the then whites-only Parliament repealing clauses 5 and 15 of the Internal Security Act in 1991, which meant the government could no longer ban, suspend or close newspapers

This was because of the numerous campaigns embarked upon by media organisations whose existence were also threatened by the draconian laws also aimed at smashing them.

However the repealing of the clauses was considered by journalists as a minor move compared to the formidable arsenal of weapons — around 100 laws and rulings — available to the State to control the Press. The struggle for liberation might be over but there are still battles that must be fought now

The laws and rulings that curb Press freedom — the most significant being section 12b of the Police Act and section 205 of the Criminal Procedure Act — are still on the statute books and make the work of journalists very difficult

Section 27b has long been a part of myriad of laws which surround and inhibit the free and proper flow of information whereas the implementation of section 205 by State agents against journalists has for years been a matter of

Struggles of Press goes on

STAY VIGILANT Journalists must ensure that the new rulers don't try to curb freedom of expression:

Journalists can still be subpoenaed in an endeavour to force them to disclose confidential information concerning the identity of their sources

Journalists can still be subpoenaed in an endeavour to force them to disclose confidential information concerning the identity of their sources. Failure to comply may lead to imprisonment without

In the years 1984-85, which unleashed the dictatorship of

uncontrolled youth militancy in the townships, journalists had necklaces placed around their necks for not toeing a political line

Government may be tempted to take over where the previous regime left off. Journalists themselves need to embark on campaigns to ensure that the remaining laws which restricts them to perform their duties freely are removed from the statute books. The campaigns should also be aimed at ensuring that the wider freedoms

which underpin the freedom of the press are upheld by the civil society generally. Journalists should remain vigilant also to ensure that the new Government does not attempt to enact its own legislation to curb freedom of expression in the interest of protecting democracy and reconciliation.

The democratisation of the country was also due to the courage of journalists in exposing the evils and corruption of apartheid despite them paying a heavy price

Their sacrifices and the contribution they made to the process of democratisation can only be rewarded by nothing less than the granting of freedom of the Press.

The lesson which journalists in some African and Eastern European countries learnt after gaining independence should also be read well here at home and be treated as example in remaining vigilant

A partnership which had worked well during the protests that saw the colonial rule and oligarchies in Africa and Eastern European topple one after the other like a pack of cards, has now turned sour.

This journalists in those countries to learn the ultimate lesson that Press freedom has no partner in power.

It was the clearest proof of the need of journalists to maintain independence from political parties irrespective of what the leadership says while in opposition

But with the new democratic government having committed itself before the world to abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights charter, hopes are high that journalists will not be subjected to the same treatment as their counterparts in some African and Eastern European countries.

Azapo to back

Argus workers

CT 30/5/74 (243)
PRETORIA. — The

Azanian People's Organisation yesterday pledged its support for the Argus workers' "fair" demand for a 13% wage increase. ~~(S)~~

Workers will vote on Wednesday on strike action following a deadlock in negotiations. The company's final offer is eight percent. ~~(S)~~

Azapo said it would support any action taken after the ballot. — Sapa

Argus workers vote today

By Musa Zondi

MEDIA workers from Argus newspapers start balloting today for a possible strike against the company over wages

Members of the Media Workers Association of South Africa and the South African Union of Journalists are balloting jointly across the country

Negotiations between the two unions and the management of Argus newspapers deadlocked. The conciliation board's attempt to break the deadlock failed

Mwasa is demanding 15 percent while the SAUJ is demanding a 13 percent increase. Argus' final offer stands

at eight percent

Mwasa said a "no" vote would mean workers accept Argus' eight percent offer

A "yes" vote would mean the union could continue negotiating or call for the reconstitution of the conciliation board or strike. The unions could exercise any of the options, but would choose whatever is in the interests of workers. (143) (243)

Various political organisations have supported the workers

In a statement, the Azanian People's Organisation said it found workers' demand of a 13 percent increase to be "a fair, legitimate demand, particularly

given the fact that Argus raked in millions of rands in political advertising during elections"

Azapo committed itself to respect the outcome of the ballot and pledged support for the workers

"If Argus workers go on strike, we would go out of our way to make sure that none of the company's newspapers get delivered to any area in this country. We are confident that the black community would be fully supportive of Argus workers' demands," said Azapo executive member Dr Gomolemo Mokae

Union federations Cosatu and Nactu have also pledged to support the media workers.

Argus workers vote today

Sowetan

11/6/94

By Musa Zondi

MEDIA workers from Argus newspapers start balloting today for a possible strike against the company over wages

Members of the Media Workers Association of South Africa and the South African Union of Journalists are balloting jointly across the country

Negotiations between the two unions and the management of Argus newspapers deadlocked. The conciliation board's attempt to break the deadlock failed

Mwasa is demanding 15 percent while the SAUJ is demanding a 13 percent increase. Argus' final offer stands

at eight percent

Mwasa said a "no" vote would mean workers accept Argus' eight percent offer

A "yes" vote would mean the union could continue negotiating or call for the reconstitution of the conciliation board or strike. The unions could exercise any of the options, but would choose whatever is in the interests of workers. (181) (243)

Various political organisations have supported the workers

In a statement, the Azanian People's Organisation said it found workers' demand of a 13 percent increase to be "a fair, legitimate demand, particularly

given the fact that Argus raked in millions of rands in political advertising during elections"

Azapo committed itself to respect the outcome of the ballot and pledged support for the workers

"If Argus workers go on strike, we would go out of our way to make sure that none of the company's newspapers get delivered to any area in this country. We are confident that the black community would be fully supportive of Argus workers' demands," said Azapo executive member Dr Gomolemo Mokae

Union federations Cosatu and Nactu have also pledged to support the media workers.

Argus journalists' strike ballot set for today

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA

About 3 000 employees of the Argus Group — whose stable of newspapers includes The Star — are expected to take part in a strike ballot today which could see them embarking on industrial action.

The ballot follows a deadlock in wage negotiations between the Argus Group and the South

Star 11/6/94

African Union of Journalists (SAUJ) and the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa).

The wage negotiations started early this year and culminated in conciliation board meetings last month which failed to resolve the dispute.

The SAUJ is demanding a 13 percent across-the-board increase and Mwasa 15 percent

backdated to April 1. The Argus Group has offered 8 percent backdated to April 1 or 9 percent backdated to May 13.

Legal strike (243)

In a joint statement last week, the two unions' leaders said a majority vote for strike action would not mean an immediate strike.

They said the ballot was merely the first step in opening avenues of creative and legal industrial action to continue efforts to get a just settlement.

"If indeed we do go on strike, it will be a legal strike, protected by law, contrary to what you (members) may have been told," the unions said.

Argus Group personnel director Roger Wellsted said the

group's pay increases over the past few years had all exceeded the annual inflation rate.

"This year's offer also exceeds the inflation rate by about 1 percent.

"In addition the company has, with the co-operation of the unions, also been implementing substantial pay adjustments in accordance with our new 'pay philosophy,'" Wellsted said.



Delay in industrial action ballot

Star 216194

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA

Voting by about 1 500 Argus Group workers to decide whether to embark on industrial action went on smoothly at branches countrywide yesterday but was delayed at The Star.

Workers at The Star could not vote after confusion over the right of editorial executives to participate in the balloting.

The eligibility of workers, who had joined the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa) after the dispute between management and the unions was declared, was also questioned and balloting was stopped by the union.

Mwasa and management finally agreed that those members with dual membership of Mwasa and the SA Typographi-

cal Union would have to declare to which union they wished to belong. Voting would take place on Tuesday.

Members of the South African Union of Journalists (SAUJ) at The Star will vote today (15/5)

The SAUJ is demanding a 13 percent across-the-board increase while Mwasa is demanding 15 percent, backdated to April 1. Argus management is offering 8 percent backdated to April 1 or 9 percent backdated to May 13. (243)

Argus Group personnel manager Roger Wellsted said the participation of executives who have hiring and firing power in the balloting "seems in principle wrong".

SAUJ negotiator Mari ka Sboros said any member who wants to be balloted has a right to and should be allowed to ex-

ercise that right.

In a joint statement the union and management said: "The union and management agree that the recognition agreement (regarding editorial executives) should and will be renegotiated after the present dispute."

Wellsted said management was quite disappointed that editorial workers in particular were contemplating industrial action despite salary adjustments over the past three years.

Sboros added: "Members are adamant that their demands are reasonable and believe that the time has come to back them up with action."

Mwasa Star branch secretary Thabo Leshilo accused management of trying to minimise the number of participants in the industrial action.

Publications Board policy to change

DURBAN. — South Africa's censorship laws are set to change as the country heads into a new era.

The fabric of the Publications Control board will change, largely due to the introduction of a Bill of Rights, said board director Dr Abraham Coetzee.

"We realise there are cer-

tain clauses and sections in the Publications Act which could be incompatible with freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights," he said.

But not all controls would go as the constitution made provision for such controls.

The board was awaiting a decision by the as-yet unformed constitutional court

The board would continue to examine material and indicate to the public what is undesirable for children under 18.

Dr Coetzee said with 65% of the 110 censors being white, the board was unrepresentative but this situation had not arisen by choice.

Rather, the board had had

been able to make use of only those people of colour who had made application for positions.

● People would increasingly have to be their own censors and control the type of publications and films to which they and their children were exposed. Publications Appeal Board chairman Prof

Dan Morkei said yesterday Speaking in Bloemfontein he said they could not rely on "protection" from the state.

On the eve of a new century and a new technological era control of publications would be increasingly difficult.

Prof Morkei noted the artist also had a right to depict the broken, sinful world — Sapa

NEWS Fight for higher salary increases from Argus Newspapers revs up

Mwasa solicits Sowetan 31/6/94 major support

By Joe Mdhlela

THE Media Workers Association of South Africa is to solicit support from all major political, student, church and civic organisations in its fight with Argus Newspapers for better wages.

Mwasa will meet the Pan Africanist Congress at its headquarters in Johannesburg today. The union will also hold talks with Cosatu (243) ~~(SSS)~~

. Another union federation, Nactu, has already thrown its lot in with Mwasa, promising any support the union may need. Other political organisations the union is expected to meet with within the next few days include the ANC, IFP, SACP and Workers' Organisation for

Socialist Action

Chief executive of Argus, Mr John Featherstone, yesterday said results of the ballot are expected on Tuesday. Mwasa and SAUJ members balloted for strike action on Wednesday.

Last week Mwasa received support from the Azanian People's Organisation, which undertook to do everything in its power to support the workers' struggle. Azapo's publicity secretary Dr Gomolemo Mokoae said: "We will go out of our way to ensure that none of the company's newspapers get delivered to any area in this country."

Other organisations the union will be talking to include Azasim, Cosas, Sadtu, Nccc, Azasco, Sasco, Paso and Azayo.

Strike ballot result tomorrow

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA

The turnout by journalists at Argus Group newspapers to vote on industrial action yesterday left union leaders in a positive frame of mind.

"We believe that the mood in favour of industrial action is strong. The turn-out has been excellent countrywide," said SA Union of Journalists (SAUJ) negotiator Marika Sboros.

At The Star more than half the 137 SAUJ members had already turned out. At Natal Newspapers more than two-thirds of SAUJ members turned out to vote, she said.

The SAUJ is demanding a 13 percent across-the-board increase backdated to April 1. The Media Workers of SA (Mwasa) is

Star 316/94
demanding 15 percent across the board. Argus management is offering 8 percent backdated to April 1 or 9 percent backdated to May 13, of which 70 percent is an across-the-board figure

The strike ballot comes after conciliation board meetings last month failed to resolve the dispute (243) (45)

Balloting was delayed at The Star and several other newspapers after confusion over the right of editorial executives to take part

Sboros said results of the balloting would be known by tomorrow.

A majority "yes" vote means workers will embark on legal industrial action while a majority "no" means an end to the dis-

pute and acceptance of the 8 percent increase

Mwasa said balloting at The Argus, Natal Newspapers and The Star had been postponed until next Tuesday while the eligibility of certain members was still being investigated.

Mwasa general secretary Sithembele Khala said the eligibility of workers who had joined the union after the dispute was declared was still being investigated by union lawyers

Argus Group personnel manager Roger Wellsted said management was disappointed that editorial workers were contemplating industrial action despite salary adjustments which had been implemented over the past three years

Challenge to the censors

Stefaans Brümmer

THE first court challenge to a Publications Appeal Board ruling since 1987 — by the producers of two safer sex education videos banned 18 months ago — has raised the curtain on renewed debate about censorship in the new South Africa. (243) WF WM3-9/6/94

The Pretoria Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved judgment after stormy argument, mostly technical, about the process by which the Publications Appeal Board (PAB) last year decided to uphold an earlier decision by a Committee on Publications to ban the videos *Safer Sex*, *a Lovers' Guide* and *Safer Sex for Gay Men and Men who have Sex with Men*.

The Publications Act allows the supreme court only to review the process by which the board reached its ruling, and not the merits of the videos themselves — whether they are in fact too explicit and transgress the freedom of expression guarantee in the new constitution.

Said Jeff van Reenen of Reel Communications: "What makes this case important is that it centres on a ruling made by the Directorate of Publications in the old South Africa. Today the censor board and the Publications Act are in violation of the new constitution. Ironically, the supreme court may have to uphold this violation."

Advocate Gilbert Marcus, representing the producers, said there could be strong grounds for a hearing in the constitutional court if the supreme court challenge fails.

Legal argument on Wednesday centred on whether the PAB had given sufficient consideration to the likely audience, and on its treatment of expert evidence submitted to it by Professor Reuben Sher of the South African Institute for Medical Research and Mary Crewe, chief Aids educator of the Johannesburg City Council.

Sher and Crewe endorsed the videos as a step in the right direction by treating Aids education in the context of eroticism and emphasising the pleasures of safer sex rather than staid lecturing.

It was common cause that the board had accepted the expert evidence on the videos' educational value. Marcus argued that the board had not sufficiently considered the evidence. Advocate H de Wet, for the board, retorted: "At the end of the day (the board) still has to judge the vehicle in the light of the morals of society."

Journalist's union votes to strike over pay

JOVAL RANTAO
LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

JOURNALISTS at Argus News-
papers and the South African
Press Association (SAPa) won a
right to go on strike yesterday
when a strike ballot by the South
African Union of Journalists
(SAUJ) produced an overwhelm-
ing "yes" vote.

The Media Workers' Associa-
tion of South Africa (MWASA), to
which other journalists and
media workers are affiliated, was
to have held its strike ballot on
Wednesday, but this has been
postponed to Tuesday.

MWASA is to meet the SAUJ
today to formulate a common
strategy.

MWASA said its strike ballot
had been postponed because
management had questioned the
eligibility of workers who joined
the union after the dispute was
declared.

"Management also questioned
the eligibility of members who
also belong to the conservative
South African Typographical
Union (SATU)," said Thabo Le-
shilo, branch secretary of
MWASA at The Star.

The strike ballot followed un-
successful Conciliation Board
meetings, held last month, to re-
solve the wage dispute.
Roger Wellsted, Argus News-
papers' personnel consultant,

said in a statement that over
80 percent of Argus employees
had accepted the company's pay
offer while the SAUJ had voted in
favour of industrial action.

"We are naturally very disap-
pointed that the majority of SAUJ
members have elected to take in-
dustrial action. The SAUJ repre-

sents 400 of our 720 editorial
staff and over 200 of these staff
members elected industrial ac-
tion," he said.

"MWASA's ballot will only be
completed on Tuesday. They rep-
resent a further 580 members
involved in these negotiations,
and at least 140 of these mem-

bers are employed in editorial
departments. We are still nego-
tiating with one other union,
SAGAAWU, which represents a
further 195 staff in Natal.

"We currently have accep-
tance of our wage offer from the
majority of staff which include
members of SATU, UCCAWASA
and SACCWU. We have a total
of 6 700 staff in the company.

Editorial independence pledged

STAFF REPORTER

BRITISH businessman Tony
O'Reilly has given an assurance
that the same principles of
editorial independence
practised at Independent
Newspapers should apply in
Argus Newspapers.

O'Reilly, who owns a
controlling stake in Argus, also
pledged that political affiliation
could not be a criterion in
choosing non-executive
directors of the Argus board.

Last week, the South African
Union of Journalists expressed
concern at remarks made by
O'Reilly, in which he was
reported to have talked about
boards of director directing
editorial policy.

O'Reilly, speaking in Atlant
yesterday at the US South
Africa conference on

Democracy and the Market
Economy, said Independent
Newspapers had a proud
reputation of being
independent in name and in
content.

"I believe very strongly in
the principles of a free press
and see it as a fundamental
pillar of the new democratic
system which is being created
in South Africa. This is a
wonderful time for South
Africa, full of promise and
hope. It is also an important
time for newspapers as literacy
increases and more and more
South Africans look to Argus
newspapers for news and
enlightenment.

"We assert and practise the
principle of editorial
independence in all our
newspapers, many of which

report on the divided an
political society of Northern
Ireland.

"Our editors and journal-
ists in some 50 publications in
Ireland, Australia and Great
Britain are noted for their
professionalism and integrity,
refusing to be intimidated or
deflected from their duty fully
to inform their readers."

O'Reilly said the board of
directors of Independent
Newspapers was composed of
non partisan people who were
representative of Irish and
international society and who
were responsible for setting
the broad group policies.

"But it is the editors who
must make the judgments
about coverage and analysis
and who control editorial
content," he said.

and SACCWU. We have a total
of 6 700 staff in the company.

"Our current pay offer is 1 per-
cent ahead of inflation and over
the past few years our increases
have exceeded inflation. "I addi-
tion, with the support of the
unions, we have implemented a
job grading programme which
has resulted in substantial in-
creases being granted to staff
over and above the annual in-
creases. We believe that our pay
scales are competitive in relation
to the market."

Argus and SAPA manage-
ment's final offer was 8 percent
backdated to April 1, or 9 per-
cent backdated to May 1.
MWASA is demanding a 15 per-
cent increase and the SAUJ
13 percent.

SAUJ negotiator Marika
Sporos said the union would hold
plant-level meetings early next
week to decide on appropriate
action.

"Journalists have become tar-
gets and work under appallingly
dangerous conditions. They have
to cope with increased workloads
in the workplace. It's a tribute to
an unwavering commitment to
their profession that so many
have not left for greener pas-
tures. Journalists deserve better
working conditions and proper
remuneration for their services."

Journalists poised for industrial action

SHARON SOROUR
Weekend Argus Reporter

JOURNALISTS and other media workers at Argus Newspapers countrywide are poised to take crippling industrial action — possibly including a strike — to support pay demands.

Hundreds of SA Union of Journalists (SAUJ) members voted in favour of strike action last week at The Argus, Daily News, the Star, Natal Mercury, Pretoria News and Diamond Fields Advertiser.

Disgruntled journalists believe they are being overworked as newspapers are understaffed, and are also facing the onslaught of new technology.

Meanwhile, other media workers, including advertising and production staff who belong to the Media Workers Association of SA (Mwasa) go to the polls on Tuesday at The Argus, Pretoria News and The Star to vote on strike action.

The majority of Mwasa members at The Sowetan, Daily News and Natal Mercury already have voted in favour of going on strike.

SAUJ union negotiator Marika Sboros said "a clear majority" of journalists voted in favour of industrial action, and a strike co-ordinating committee was already in place even although members would decide only next week what the industrial action would entail.

■ Newspapers across the country may face a deluge of industrial action from disgruntled journalists, advertising and production staff after they rejected Argus Newspapers' annual pay offer.

SAUJ members at the South African Press Association (Sapa), which provides a news service to newspapers, also have elected to take action.

The SAUJ is demanding an across-the-board monthly increase of 13 percent, while Mwasa is demanding an across-the-board monthly increase of 15 percent and a minimum wage of R1 500. Management has offered the unions eight percent.

Argus Newspapers employs 6 700 people and negotiates with six unions.

More than 80 percent of employees have already accepted the annual pay offer, including those belonging to the SA Typographical Union (Satu) and the SA Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union (Saccawu).

Argus group personnel consultant Roger Wellsted said he was "disappointed" that settlement had not been reached with some unions.

Mr Wellsted said: "Our increases over the past few years have all exceeded inflation, and this year's increase again exceeds inflation. In addition to the annual increases, and negotiated with the co-operation of

unions, we have granted additional merit and job-grading adjustments."

Mr Wellsted said the SAUJ represented 400 of the company's 720 editorial staff. Mwasa represents 580 workers, with at least 140 employed in editorial departments

The company was still negotiating with the SA General and Allied Workers' Union.

An SAUJ spokesman at The Argus said its demand was not based on the inflation rate, which was the route chosen by management.

"Most economists knew that the inflation rate would bottom-out in April — and sticking to an inflation-related increase has been the feature of management's argument.

"Ours has been consistent in that staff are being overworked, newspapers are understaffed and are facing the introduction of new technology — that's why we were not prepared to accept an eight percent increase."

Expectations were that the inflation rate would increase "in any case".

Mwasa regional secretary Rayghaana Abrahams said a hold-up in balloting in the

Western Cape had been caused by some staff having dual membership of Mwasa and Satu

Ms Abrahams said: "Prior to our conciliation board meeting, management told employees they would have the opportunity of choosing which union they wanted to represent them. Mwasa found this intimidating as some staff automatically had to belong to Satu when they joined the company. The majority of people with dual membership rejected the eight percent increase which Satu accepted."

Satu settled for eight percent in January and demanded a special clause be added in their agreement that their increase would equal that given to Mwasa.

However, Ms Abrahams said: "We are not interested in other unions riding on our negotiations and have taken legal advice on this. The new Labour Relations Act allows for exclusivity — unions negotiating for their members only."

SAUJ wage negotiations deadlocked with the union demanding a monthly increase of 13 percent and management sticking to eight percent. Mwasa negotiations kicked off with the union asking for 19 percent.

Both unions declared a dispute and separate attempts to resolve them at conciliation board hearings with the department of manpower in May failed.

(243) ARG 4/6/94

Judge gags Sunday Times on court story

SITimes
516194
Sunday Times Reporter

A SUPREME Court judge has granted an urgent interdict preventing the Sunday Times from publishing details of a court action of extraordinary public interest.

The action raises questions about medical technology and its effect on family relations.

The ethical and legal dilemmas created by drastic medical intervention in the gender and sexual characteristics of couples are of worldwide concern. Church leaders have spoken out on the issue and a number of celebrated court cases have been fought in various countries.

The South African Law Commission has in the past considered legal points raised by the issue, and a case involving similar issues is now before the European Court of Human Rights.

Newspapers in London are vying to publish details of the South African case

However, Mr Justice Lewis Goldblatt yesterday granted an urgent interim interdict forbidding the Sunday Times from reporting details of the relationship between a couple involved in a pending court action. (243)

He also ordered the Sunday Times to comply with the terms of Section 12 of the Divorce Act which says no information which comes to light in the course of a divorce action may be published.

The urgent application was brought by lawyers representing one of the parties.

The Sunday Times is consulting lawyers with a view to appealing to the Constitutional Court for a ruling under the freedom of the press guarantees in the Bill of Rights.

NEWS Strike action will coincide with Argus' Johann

Major support for unions

By Mokgadi Pela

BRITISH and Australian unions have pledged to pressure Argus Newspapers' new majority shareholder to meet the demands for a 15 percent pay increase by the Media Workers' Association of South Africa.

The International Federation of Journalists, the National Union of Journalists and the Australian Union of Journalists have vowed to pressure Irish newspaper magnate Mr Tony O'Reilly to meet the demands of Mwasa and of the

South African Union of Journalists.

Members of the SAUJ at the Argus and the South African Press Association voted 80 percent in favour of strike action to back up their demand for a 13 percent increase backdated to April 1.

The outcome of balloting for Mwasa's 1 500 members will be known today.

Management is offering 8 percent backdated to April 1 or 9 percent backdated to May 13. Argus Newspapers' group human resources manager, Mr Roger Wellstead, said: "Our current pay

offer is one percent ahead of inflation and over the past few years our increases have exceeded inflation"

Mwasa acting president Mr Mathatha Tsedu said the date for national action was June 13 to coincide with the Argus' listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. He said there would be other forms of action — go-slows, pickets and a ban on overtime.

SAUJ negotiator Miss Marika Sboros said the vote was "a clear message workers are not prepared to accept starvation wages" (243) (355)

were part of the failed

Sowetan

Argus papers picket plan

By Ike Motsapi
Labour Reporter

THE African National Congress yesterday came out in support of the Media Workers Association of South Africa and the South African Union of Journalists in their demand for a living wage from Argus management

816194
And about 2 000 members of Mwasa and SAUJ will begin with a national picket of all Argus outlets from tomorrow

News blackout

In a statement yesterday ANC general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said a news blackout at this time when information flow was vital, and investors were "keenly focusing on South Africa, would be most unfortunate" (243) ~~ESS~~

"It is therefore most unfortunate that Argus, which has such a dominant place in the industry, has not yet adequately addressed such vital issues as payment of a living wage for all staff or affirmative action including at managerial level

"The ANC unequivocally supports the legitimate demands made by Mwasa-SAUJ and their call for mediation with Argus, recognising that this is the best way to resolve the dispute," he added

Mr John Featherstone, chief executive of Argus Newspapers, said Argus management was prepared jointly to meet with Mwasa and SAUJ to resolve the matter as suggested by Ramaphosa

He added that the company was also prepared to look at affirmative action, upgrading of journalists and to better conditions of employment for its employees

Argus 'wants to meet unions'

JOHANNESBURG. — The management of Argus Newspapers Ltd says it welcomes the opportunity of meeting the South African Union of Journalists and the Media Workers Association.

Argus Newspapers chief executive J G Featherstone said this in a statement yesterday. ARG 8/6/94

He was responding to the suggestion made by African National Congress secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa that management should "mediate on issues in dispute" with the unions.

Mr Featherstone said it was reassuring to learn the ANC too did not want a news blackout as a result of a strike.

"We will ask Mr Ramaphosa for the

opportunity to present our side of the issue, which we believe will demonstrate our good faith in dealing with the issues he has raised. These include the question of affirmative action, upgrading journalism and conditions of employment at Argus newspapers."

SAUJ members have balloted in favour of industrial action in support of their 13 percent pay rise demand. Management is offering eight percent backdated to April 1, or nine percent backdated to mid-May.

Cape Town Mwasa members voted overwhelmingly yesterday in favour of industrial action. A spokesman said members would meet this week to discuss what action would be taken.

Mwasa is demanding a 15 percent increase. — Sapa. (243)

Argus agrees with ANC to meet unions

JOHANNESBURG. —
The management of Ar-
gus Newspapers Ltd says
it welcomes the oppor-
tunity of jointly meeting
the South African Union
of Journalists and the
Media Workers Associa-
tion. (213)

In a statement issued
yesterday afternoon Ar-
gus Newspapers said in
response to the sugges-
tion made by ANC secre-
tary general Mr Cyril Ra-
maphosa the manage-
ment of the newspaper
group would welcome
the opportunity of meet-
ing jointly with the
SAUJ and Mwasu "to me-
diate on issues in dis-
pute". CT 8/6/94

The company was re-
sponding to an earlier
development in the wage
dispute between Argus
Newspapers and Sapa
news staffers when the
ANC came out in sup-
port of the media work-
ers. — Sapa

Media workers plan to picket

(243) CT 9/6/94

JOHANNESBURG — The SA Union of Journalists and the Media Workers' Association of SA are planning to picket outside newspaper offices today to get the Argus Group to up its wage offer.

About 2 000 workers are expected to picket in the PWV region and sympathy pickets are expected in other areas,

said SAUJ chief negotiator Ms Marika Sboros

A dispute has been declared with the Argus Group, who are offering an eight percent wage increase, while SAUJ is demanding 13% and Mwaso 15%

Argus Group personnel director Mr Roger Wellsted said the suggestion by ANC secretary-general Mr Cyril Rama-

phosa that the dispute be referred to mediation had been agreed to by the company

Mr Ramaphosa said foreign investors were focusing on South Africa and it would be unfortunate to have a news blackout

ANC spokeswoman Ms Gill Marcus said yesterday the ANC's support for mediation

in the dispute should not be misconstrued as interference

"We recognise the frustration of journalists and if a company expects quality work, it should be prepared to pay for services, and in this respect, Argus should lead the way by addressing reporters' concerns," Ms Marcus said — Own Correspondent, Sapa

Strike in offing if today's action fails

Journalists set to picket over pay

■ BY JOVIAL RANTAO
LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

Lunch-hour picket demonstrations, part of a joint action by journalists' unions in protest against a pay offer by Argus Newspapers and the South African Press Association, are to begin around the country today.

Picket demonstrations will be held today outside The Star, Sowetan and Sapa offices and at other Argus newspapers nationwide.

Depending on how Argus management responds to the workers' demands between today and tomorrow, when picket demonstrations end, members of the South African Union of Journalists (SAUJ) and the Media Workers' Association of SA (Mwasa) have threatened to embark on massive action, which might involve a strike, on Monday.

The industrial action follows failure by management to meet a 13-15 percent wage increase demanded by workers. The company has offered an 8 percent increase.

Marika Sboros and Connie Molusi, the SAUJ's negotiators, said yesterday they did not believe Argus management ever had a genuine intention of resolving the dispute amicably.

Mathata Tsedu, Mwasa's act-

INDUSTRIAL action looms in the wake of a breakdown in negotiations with Argus management

ing president, said the two unions would meet this weekend to review their strategy.

He emphasised that media workers would picket outside the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. "We will be there whether out on strike or in picket action," he said.

The SAUJ and Mwasa yesterday also called on major shareholders in the Argus newspapers to take a stand in the wage dispute.

The unions said Tony O'Reilly, who owns a controlling share in Argus Newspapers, and Dr Nthato Motlana, who controls the majority of shares at the Sowetan newspaper, had stayed out of the dispute.

Roger Wellsted, personnel consultant for Argus, said the across-the-board 8 percent offer was above the inflation rate. In addition to this increase, the company, with full co-operation of both unions, was in the process of implementing a job-grad-

ing and merit programme.

"This programme is being implemented over a three-year period, and we are in the third and final stage of the programme. Our pay rates are very competitive to other newspaper companies, as is our pay offer,"

Wellsted said. (243) (152)

The Congress of South African Students (Cosas) has joined a list of organisations that have come out in support of the joint SAUJ and Mwasa industrial action which starts today.

Cosas expressed concern that if members of the SAUJ and Mwasa went on strike, students would be deprived of education pages, which helped them in their studies.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions yesterday offered to give assistance in whatever way it could to bring about a fair resolution to the dispute.

After a meeting with a delegation of the SAUJ and Mwasa, Cosatu also said it supported the demand for democratisation of the Argus newspapers.

Failure to implement a meaningful programme of restructuring and affirmative action would undermine the transformation of Argus newspapers into institutions sensitive to the needs and concerns of the majority of South Africans, according to Cosatu.

NEWS Prisoners strike to get pardons ● Workers to picket Argus offices



Ready to act ... Mr Mathatha Tsedu, acting president of the Media Workers Association of South Africa, briefs the media yesterday on the programme of action Mwasa and the SA Union of Journalists are to take from today. With him is Mr Connie Molusi of the South African Union of Journalists.

PIC: MBUZENI ZULU

Countrywide pickets at Argus plants today

Sowetan

By Ike Motsapi a/16/94
Labour Reporter

THE wage dispute between media workers employed by the Argus Company and management takes a new turn today with the start of lunch hour pickets at Argus offices countrywide.

The pickets, by about 2 000 members of the Media Workers Association of South Africa and the South African Union of Journalists, could culminate in possible strike action next week.

Argus group human resources manager Mr Roger Wellsted yesterday said he was disappointed that the two unions had opted to picket while management had offered to go for mediation.

He said management would consult the Independent Mediation Services of SA pending their acceptance by both unions. He disputed that more than 2 000 union members would go on strike as predicted by Mwasa and SAUJ

"Out of 4 000 people covered by the recognition agreement, only about 550 voted yes for strike action. This represented about 14 percent."

Demonstration

Members of Mwasa and SAUJ plan to hold a demonstration outside the Johannesburg Stock Exchange on Monday when the Argus Company is listed.

Mr Mathatha Tsedu, Mwasa acting president, told a Press conference in Johannesburg yesterday that "we will be there to demand that management meets our democratic demand for a living wage".

Reading from a joint Mwasa and SAUJ statement, Tsedu said "The many other factors which management chooses to ignore deliberately, like the affordability of the company to pay, the competitors in the market place and the whole economic upswing, count in favour of a better increase."



Pickers protest outside Argus and Sapa offices

Press row goes to mediation

JOURNALISTS who protested outside their offices plan to protest outside the JSE when Argus is listed under its new owner

BY JOVIAL RANTAO
LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

Trade unions in the Argus Group have agreed to take their wage dispute to mediation. Hour-long picket demonstrations were held outside offices of most Argus papers and the SA Press Association yesterday.

The Media Workers' Association of South Africa and the South African Union of Journalists agreed to mediation set down for Tuesday, but said this would not alter their plan to demonstrate outside the Johannesburg Stock Exchange on Monday.

The demonstration is set to coincide with the listing of Argus Newspapers on the JSE under majority owner Tony O'Reilly.

Yesterday Argus management and the two unions agreed to appoint Wits Business School lecturer Vusi Masinga and Independent Mediation Services director Charles Nupen as mediators.

Mwasa acting president Mathata Tsedu said the protest actions would stay "forever" if need be. He said the union's national strike committee would be



Demonstration . . . Star workers protest outside the newspaper's Sauer Street offices in Johannesburg yesterday demanding a higher wage increase than the Argus company has offered them.

PICTURE: DUF DU TOIT

finalising a plan of action this weekend.

Mwasa and the SAUJ were to discuss joint actions today.

SAUJ chief negotiator Marika Sboros said the large turnout

raised its offer from 8 to 10 per cent, backdated to April 1.

Mwasa and Allied Publishing yesterday reached an agreement on an 8 percent wage increase offered by the company.

The agreement, according to Allied managing director Steve Nortje, included a link to the three-year phase-in of the company's new pay structure initiated by the Argus Group

(243)

on riot ● Mwasa, SAUJ members picket Argus offices



Journalists employed by the Argus Company took to the streets yesterday to picket for higher wages. Demonstrations, organised by the Media Workers Association of SA and the SA Union of Journalists took place in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria and Durban. Sowetan staffers are pictured outside their offices at Commando Road, Industria, Johannesburg, during their demonstration. PIC: JOE MOLEFE

Media workers picket

Sowetan
10/6/94

By Ike Motsapi and Sapa

ABOUT 2 000 members of the Media Workers Association of SA and the SA Union of Journalists staged countrywide demonstrations yesterday to demand a living wage from the Argus Company.

Pickets were held in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and Kimberly.

The action follows a dispute over salary increases at Argus Newspapers and the SA Press Association.

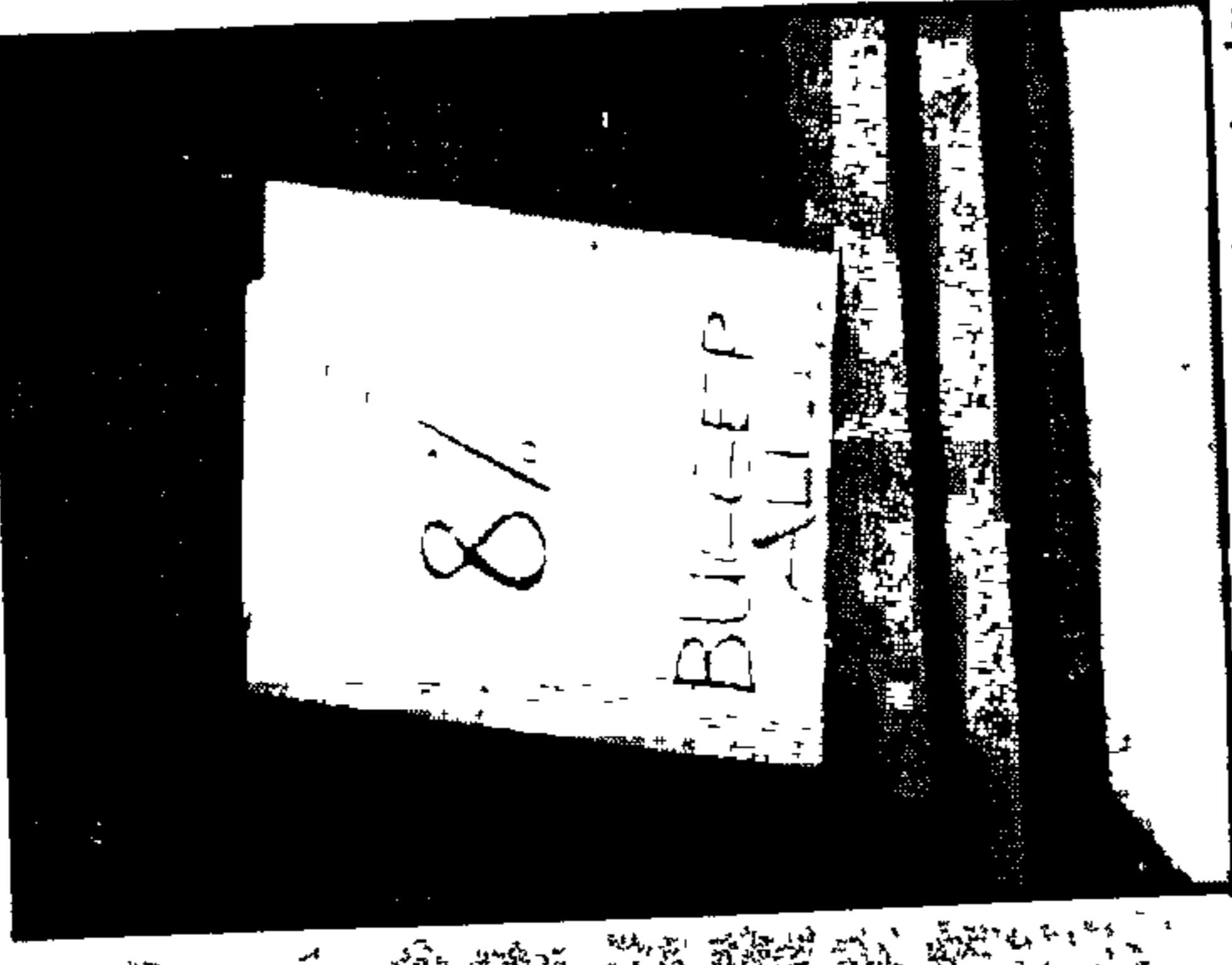
At the time of going to press the management of Argus and officials of the two unions had agreed to go to mediation (243) (153)

Mr Mathatha Tsedu, acting president of Mwasa, said the decision to go to mediation did not mean that the intended industrial action had been abandoned.

Mr Roger Wellsted, group human resources manager of Argus, said he was pleased that there was agreement in setting up a meeting with mediators.

Outside Sowetan offices about 100 Mwasa members lined the street yesterday to register their protest. About 30 journalists and media workers picketed outside the Pretoria News

if it fails to get the go-ahead



LOOK HERE! Members of the Media Workers Association of South Africa picket outside Newspaper House, St George's Mall, yesterday in support of their wage demands. But not everyone agreed with the sentiments expressed if this poster, above right, which appeared on an office window, is anything to go by.

Picture: HANNES THART, The Argus.

ARG 10/6/94 (243)

Media workers in picket over wage demands

Staff Reporters
 ABOUT 30 journalists and other media workers marched to the Mount Nelson hotel and staged a picket demonstration over two separate wage disputes with Argus Newspapers.

Members of the SA Union of Journalists and the Media Workers Association of SA (Mwasa) also picketed outside Newspaper House yesterday. The picketers, bearing posters that said, among other slogans, "A new SA — but same old Argus" and "Argus puts people before profits", arrived at the Mount Nelson at the same time there was a two-car crash on the main road.

The journalists, watched by the police Reaction Unit, waved their posters at dignitaries heading for the World Economic Forum summit, which was attended by heads of state, including President Nelson Mandela.

The journalists were not allowed into the grounds of the hotel, and, after picketing for 30 minutes, rejoined SA colleagues standing in St George's Mall.

Mwasa is demanding a monthly across-the-board increase of 15 percent. The SAUJ is demanding 13 percent. Argus Newspapers is offering both unions eight percent.

SAUJ members voted last week in favour of taking some form of industrial action which might include a strike. Mwasa members voted in favour of strike action.

The action yesterday was part of a countrywide protest outside offices of all Argus newspapers and Sapa.

● The Johannesburg Argus Correspondent reports that the two unions

and Argus Newspapers have agreed to take their wage dispute to mediation.

The mediators agreed upon are Vusi Masinga, a lecturer from the Witwatersrand Business School, and Charles Nupen, from the Independent Mediation Services of South Africa. Mediation starts on Tuesday.

Management of the South African Press Association, which has been part of the dispute, yesterday increased its offer from eight to 10 percent, backdated to April 1, and were awaiting for the SAUJ's response.



R1-m for Cape journalists

JOHANNESBURG. — Times Media Ltd will pay a total R1 million to journalists at the Cape Times following the sale of the newspaper to Argus Newspapers, TML group secretary Barrie Harris confirmed today. (243) ARS 10/6/94

"We thought it would be a nice gesture, considering the length and quality of their service," he said.

The payments to 68 staff

members would be made on Monday according to a scale based on salary and service

Journalists with five or more years' service would receive three months' pay while others would get one month's pay.

Mr Harris said TML had approached the Receiver of Revenue and the payments would be treated at favourable tax rates. — Sapa.

Weekly Mail faces Modise gag

THE Weekly Mail and Guardian newspaper was served papers yesterday informing it of the Defence Minister's intention to seek an interdict restraining it from further publishing a report on the former SADF's Directorate of Covert Collection. *Biday*

Weekly Mail co-editor Anton Harber confirmed attorneys for Defence Minister Joe Modise had served papers indicating he would go to court yesterday to have the newspaper interdicted. *10/6/94*

The application did not go ahead, but Weekly Mail co-editor Irwin Manom said the minister would continue with the action, but not as a matter of urgency.

"We told them they want to interdict us about a story that we do not have in the newspaper anyway," said Harber.

"The story was not planned to appear in this week's edition, and the paper will oppose the interdict," said Harber.

The story deals with 23 former members of the SADF's Directorate of Covert Collection who were dismissed by former State President FW de Klerk in 1992.

Last week's Weekly Mail reported that the 23 had written to President Nelson Mandela claiming they were used as political scapegoats, and calling for their reinstatement.

Last week's Weekly Mail report said Mandela had not yet responded to the letter. *(243)*

The 23 were among a total 62 people who were employed by Pan Afrik Industrial Investment Consultants cc, a DCC front company.

They all lost their jobs after the Goldstone Commission raided the offices of the Africa Analysis Consultancy (Pty) Ltd, the front company for DCC headquarters.

The report of the subsequent inquiry under Gen Pierre Steyn had never been made public, the newspaper article said — Sapa.

Bid to gag paper halted

Star 10/6/94

■ BY MICHAEL SPARKS

An application for an urgent interdict by Defence Minister Joe Modise to prevent the Weekly Mail and Guardian from publishing stories about former military spies was withdrawn yesterday, after the paper's editor assured the minister that no such stories were planned for today's issue.

Editor Anton Harber said last night that the newspaper had not intended publishing today any follow-up on last week's disclosures that former Military Intelligence spies had written to President Mandela asking for their jobs back.

But Harber said Modise had applied for an ordinary interdict to prevent publication of similar

stories in future.

He felt it extraordinary that the new Government had used old, apartheid-era legislation so soon after taking power.

"It is ironic that this action was taken one day after the announcement of a truth commission by Justice Minister Dullah Omar," Harber added (243)

The Media Monitoring Project commented: "One month into the new South Africa we are faced with a defence ministry which appears to have as little regard for the freedom of the press as its predecessor. The eagerness with which the defence ministry appears to have embraced apartheid legislation calls into question the integrity of a democratic Government."

2 Cape Times, Friday, June 10 1994 ★

Modise to interdict Weekly Mail

243

reinstatement

They were among the 62 people who were employed by Pan Afrik Industrial Investment Consultants cc, a DCC front company

The 62 all lost their jobs after the Goldstone Commission raided the offices of the Africa Analysis Consultancy (Pty) Ltd, the front for DCC headquarters. Sapa

10/6/94

the interdict as it intended covering the story in future

The story deals with 23 former members of the directorate who were fired by former president Mr F W de Klerk in 1992

Last week's Weekly Mail reported the 23 had written to President Nelson Mandela claiming they were used as political scapegoats and calling for their

yesterday afternoon to have the newspaper interdicted, but the application did not go ahead yesterday.

Weekly Mail co-editor Mr Irwin Manoim said the minister would continue with the interdict

"We told them they are interdicting us about a story we don't have in the paper," said Mr Harber, adding it would oppose

JOHANNESBURG — The Weekly Mail newspaper was served papers yesterday informing it of Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise's intention to seek an interdict restraining it from further publishing a story on the former SADF's Directorate of Covert Collection

Weekly Mail co-editor Mr Arton Harber confirmed attorneys for Mr Modise had served papers indicating he would go to court

Strike looms at Argus newspapers

Vuyo Mvoko ~~31~~(243) WM 10-16/6/94

FAILING a last-ditch management climb-down on media workers' pay claims, the Argus group faces its first national newspaper strike from Monday.

The action, planned to coincide with the listing of Argus newspapers on the JSE, could negatively affect its share price.

On Wednesday Argus chief executive John Featherstone indicated management would not budge from its final offer of an eight percent across-the-board increase backdated to April 1, or nine percent backdated to May 13. The South African Union of Journalists (SAUJ) has demanded 13 percent and the Media Workers Association of South Africa (Mwasa) 15 percent.

Featherstone agreed potential strikers were an "important portion" of the workforce. But he was adamant the newspapers would not be brought to a standstill, and doubted the action would hit the Argus listing. He said the company could only accept ANC general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa's suggestion on Tuesday of mediation.

The SAUJ and Mwasa said this week they had asked Tony O'Reilly, the Irish press baron on the point of acquiring 31 percent of Argus, to intervene. They said the International Federation of Journalists would before Monday announce solidarity action at O'Reilly's British, Irish and Australian papers.

Eighty-five percent of Mwasa members voted for the strike, while the SAUJ's Marika Sboros said her union had won "a clear majority".

Pay row: Press unions agree to ceasefire

Weekend Argus Reporter

JOHANNESBURG. — The South African Union of Journalists (SAUJ) and the Media Workers of South Africa (Mwasa), the two unions locked in a pay dispute with Argus newspapers, have agreed to suspend industrial action — pending the outcome of Tuesday's mediation

Both parties agreed, after picket demonstrations by workers on Thursday, to appoint Wits Business School lecturer Vusi Masinga and Independent Mediation Services director Charles Nupen as mediators.

The Argus has offered eight percent across the board. The SAUJ demands 13 percent and Mwasa 15 percent

Yesterday the SAUJ and the South

(243) African Press Association (Sapa) settled their wage dispute. Sapa journalists will receive a 10 percent increase, seven percent of which will be across the board and the rest will be paid as merit

In the Argus dispute Marika Sboros, the SAUJ's chief negotiator, said both her union and Mwasa, represented by S'thembele Khala, its general secretary, decided to suspend industrial action as a compromise to give the mediation process a chance

The decision, she said, was taken at a joint national strike committee meeting in Johannesburg yesterday. A separate Mwasa national strike committee meeting is to be held in Durban today. ARG 11/6/94

"However, picketing at the Johan-

nesburg Stock Exchange, to coincide with the listing of Argus newspapers under new majority owner Tony O'Reilly, will go ahead as planned.

"We believe that management is sincere about trying to resolve the conflict amicably and we trust that their decision to agree to mediation is not just another delaying tactic"

The two unions saw mediation as a possible last chance to avert a crisis situation "We have also taken this decision in the best interests of the community, who would otherwise be faced with a probable news blackout," she added.

The two unions' final position — they have not waived their right to strike — was dependent on the outcome of Tuesday's mediation.

Modise responds to ANC criticism

JOHANNESBURG. — The African National Congress' Department of Information and Publicity has joined a Natal ANC spokesman in criticising the Defence Ministry for its intention to interdict the Weekly Mail and Guardian newspaper

The tabloid was served papers on Thursday informing it of Defence Minister Joe Modise's intention to seek an interdict to restrain it from publishing further stories on the SA Defence Force's former Directorate of Covert Collection (DCC)

The story, published for the first time last week, deals with 23 former members of the directorate who were dismissed by former State President F W de Klerk in 1992.

"ANC policy is unequivocally for full disclosure of past covert action and exposure of dirty tricks against the democratic movement," the department said in a statement yesterday

However, yesterday Mr Modise backtracked from further action against the Weekly Mail newspaper, saying he would decide on future steps about a possible report by the publication after he had studied all aspects.

Responding to the furore over the legal action, Mr Modise said he was approached on Thursday by SANDF head General Georg Meiring for permission to serve an interdict on the paper.

"I granted this permission because I did not wish to read in newspapers about covert matters pertaining to my department about which I had not yet been briefed. The reason for this decision was so I could call for reports, both from the Defence Force and the respondents.

"Only when I have all the relevant information laid before me will I be in a position to decide what steps I will take" — Sapa

(243) ARG 11/6/94

Press unions suspend strike action pending new talks

Star 11/16/94

JOVIAL RANTAO and MAUREEN ISAACSON
THE SOUTH African Union of Journalists (SAUJ) and the Media Workers Association of South Africa (MWASA), locked in a wage dispute with Argus Newspapers, yesterday agreed to suspend strike action pending the outcome of mediation on Tuesday.

The unions and management agreed, after picket demonstrations by workers on Thursday, to appoint Wits Business School lecturer Vusi Masinga and Independent Mediation Services director Charles Nupen as mediators in the dispute.

SAUJ chief negotiator Marika Sboros said the SAUJ and MWASA, represented by its general secretary S'thembele Khala, had suspended industrial action as a compromise to give the mediation process a chance.

Picketing at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange,

to coincide with the listing of Argus Newspapers under new majority owner Tony O'Reilly, will go ahead as planned.

"We believe that Argus management is sincere about trying to resolve the conflict amicably and we trust that their decision to agree to mediation is not just another delaying tactic."

The unions had not waived their right to strike, and their final position would depend on the outcome of the mediation on Tuesday, she said.

The South African Press Association settled its wage dispute yesterday. (243) (152)

Said Sboros. "The SAUJ is disturbed at blatant attempts by the South African Press Association management to divide the union and subvert the collective bargaining process."

"It is ironic that SAPA management's 2 percent move is the first fairly

substantial move in the course of protracted negotiations which began in February this year.

"SAPA management have been happy to ride on Argus management's coat-tails, stalling the process by moving only one percentage point from its original offer of 7 percent."

Sboros said the SAUJ was disturbed that it had taken the threat of industrial action to get SAPA management to move on their wage offer.

"Management's transparent attempts at concocting justifications for making the move at this crucial and late stage confirm suspicions that they hoped to split the union and undermine our right to bargain collectively."

Sboros said that if SAPA management hoped that their action would be successful, they could not be more mistaken.

"In fact it will impact negatively on manage-

ment," she said.

Sboros added that SAUJ members at SAPA had pledged solidarity with their colleagues at Argus Newspapers.

Argus Newspapers personnel consultant Roger Wellsted said Argus was still in dispute with the SAUJ, and MWASA, with Argus offering 8 percent across the board and promising to continue its salary restructuring programme.

The SAUJ is demanding 13 percent and MWASA 15 percent. (55)

In a press release issued yesterday, SAPA general manager Wim van Gils said SAPA management had decided to increase their offer after comparing the salaries of their journalists with those paid by the Argus company flagship newspaper, The Star. He said SAPA salaries had fallen behind those of English-language publications in Johannesburg.

Star 11/6/94

ANC attacks Modise over move to gag newspaper

THE ANC yesterday criticised its own Defence Minister, Joe Modise, for barring the Weekly Mail & Guardian from reporting on Military Intelligence agents

"It is regrettable that one of the first actions by the new Minister of Defence has been to interdict the paper, to prevent publication of further information on operatives of the totally discredited Direc-

torate of Covert Collection (DCC)," an ANC information department statement said

"ANC policy is unequivocally for full disclosure of past covert actions and exposure of the dirty tricks conducted against the democratic movement" (243) (45)

The newspaper last week said 23 former members of the DCC, fired in 1992, had written to Presi-

dent Mandela claiming they were scapegoats and asking to return to their jobs. It named agents it said had been sacked for illegal activities but who had been rehired

Editor's assistant of the Weekly Mail and Guardian, Judy Bester, said "We received papers (from the Defence Ministry) interdicting us from further contravening the Defence Act and the Pro-

tection of Information Act or publishing more information about the matter"

The Congress of South African Trade Unions and the South African Communist Party also condemned the interdict

Modise sought yesterday to defuse the row over his gag on the newspaper, saying he needed more information before he took a final decision

He said he was approached by SADF chief General Georg Meiring on June 9 for permission to serve the interdict

"I granted this permission because I did not wish to read in newspapers about covert matters pertaining to my department about which I had not yet been briefed"

— Sapa-Reuter

■ See Page 9

Sapa strikes wage deal with journalists' union

JOHANNESBURG — The South African Press Association reached agreement yesterday with the South African Union of Journalists (SAUJ) on salary increases ^{of 11/6/94} (243) (~~451~~)

Of an overall 10% increase, backdated to April 1, seven percent will be across-the-board and three percent paid on merit

Argus Newspapers personnel consultant Mr Roger Wellsted said the Argus was still in dispute with the SAUJ and the Media Workers' Association of South Africa — Sapa

ANC slates Modise over Mail action

CF 11/6/94 (243)

THE ANC and Cosatu slammed Minister of Defence Mr Joe Modise yesterday for applying for an interdict to prevent press reports about the "totally discredited" Directorate of Covert Collections (DCC)

The ANC said it was "regrettable" that one of the first actions taken by Mr Modise was to prevent publication of the reports about the DCC in the Weekly Mail and Guardian

Cosatu called on Mr Modise to withdraw his application

Mr Modise's decision was also strongly criticised yesterday by a spokesman for the ANC in Natal, urging him to drop the case being heard in the Pretoria Supreme Court.

It said ANC policy is for "full disclosure of past covert actions".

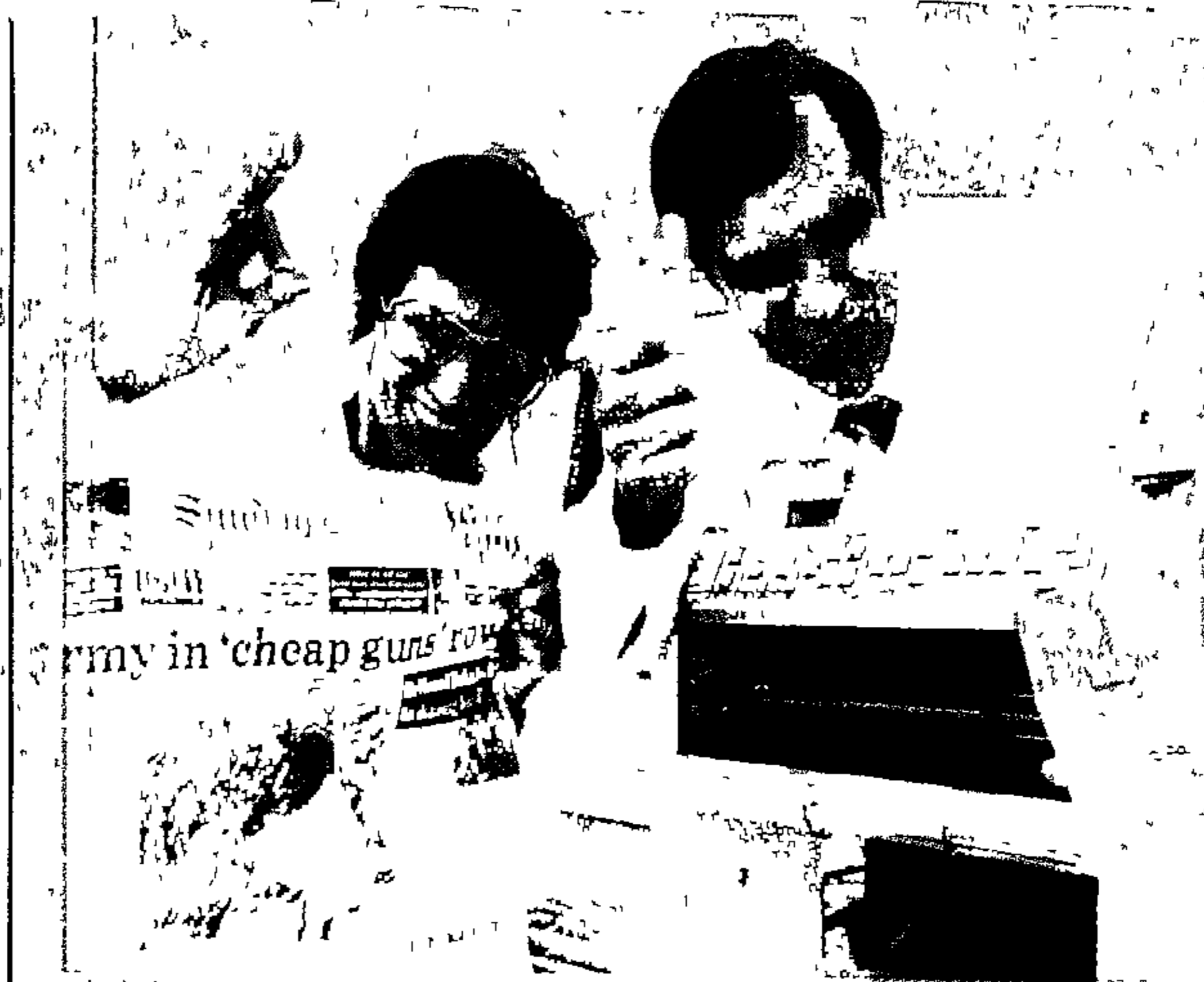
The Weekly Mail story concerned the dismissal of 23 DCC members by former president Mr F W de Klerk.

The minister, who did not refer to the ANC criticism, confirmed last night he gave permission for the application after being approached by SANDF chief General Georg Meiring

"I granted permission because I did not wish to read in newspapers about covert matters pertaining to my department about which I had not yet been briefed.

"The reason for this decision was so I could call for reports, both from the Defence Force and the respondents

"Only when I have all the relevant information before me will I be able to decide what steps to take," Mr Modise said — Political Staff, Sapa



HOT OFF THE PRESS . . . the Natal Blind and Deaf Society's Rukaya Mathir and Albert Peters show off their braille printer Picture: RICHARD SHOREY

By MEGAN POWER

THE first newspaper in South Africa to be produced in braille rolled off the "presses" yesterday.

In a trial run this weekend, 20 copies of the Sunday Times, printed in Braille were delivered to a group of blind people from the Natal Blind and Deaf Society in Durban.

The new newspaper, produced on a R45 000 computerised braille printer, means that blind people can, for the first time, read their own newspaper just hours after the printed version has hit the streets.

The Sunday Times, which has relaxed copyright re-

Blind keep
SITimes
 up with
12/6/94
 the Times

strictions in this regard, was chosen after a snap survey among a group of blind people confirmed it to be their first choice.

The Sunday Times is now also in cyberspace — the electronic information highway that straddles the world and which can be reached by anyone with a computer

equipped with a modem.

Readers are invited to join the Sunday Times conference on the Digitec Online bulletin board.

Since it was introduced in the Transvaal area, this new public forum has stimulated heated discussions on a diverse range of subjects.

The forum is hosted by Digitec Online, a leading Johannesburg bulletin board system. *(243)*

All you need is a modem connected to a phone line. Once your communications software is configured, dial Johannesburg 476-2008.

If you need help call Walter Albrecht at Digitec 011-6780097 during office hours.

Review defence and info secrecy laws, says DP

APR 13/16/94
243
JOHANNESBURG — The Democratic Party has urged a review of the Defence Act and Protection of Information Act following reports that Defence Minister Joe Modise had planned an interdict against the Weekly Mail to stop it from publishing further reports on former military spies.

"No sooner is the African National Congress in office than it begins to help itself with the authorisation legacy of its junior partner, the National Party," a statement said

The DP said the planned interdict, which did not go ahead, had demonstrated a need to urgently review the censorship sections of the two pieces of legislation.

Mr Modise had apparently attempted to halt publication of details of 23 former members of the SA Defence Force covert operations who had written to President Nelson Mandela claiming they were used as political scapegoats and calling for their reinstatement.

They were fired by former president F W de Klerk after a purge in 1992.

The DP said the incident demonstrated the need for the strengthening of the bill of rights' freedom of expression and information clauses.

Mr Modise has come under fire for his actions, with criticism also coming from the ANC and Cosatu — Sapa

12/16/94
**Mwasa open
to mediation**

DURBAN — The Media Workers Association of SA (Mwasa) decided at the weekend to join colleagues in the SA Union of Journalists in a bid to resolve a wage dispute with Argus newspapers through mediation.

Mwasa's national strike co-ordinating committee decided here to postpone their strike action until the outcome of mediation, which begins tomorrow.

Wage negotiations deadlocked on May 19.
Sapa (243) (52)

Modise withdraws gag order

■ BY ABDUL MILAZI

Defence Minister Joe Modise yesterday withdrew an interdict restraining the Weekly Mail & Guardian from publishing information implicating top Umkhonto we Sizwe officials in spying for the previous government while in exile

On Friday, Modise won an interdict against the newspaper restraining it from publishing information by former Directorate of Covert Collec-

tion (DCC) members Gerhard van Rensburg and Clive Brink, who alleged that they had names of ANC officials who had spied for the NP government while the organisation was still banned. (254) (243)

In a statement Modise said he had withdrawn the interdict after carefully examining information made available to him by the two former Military Intelligence officials and satisfied himself that it did not pose a threat to the democratic tran-

sition.

Modise said: "I have instructed the State attorney to withdraw the interdict restraining the former officers (Van Rensburg and Brink) from divulging information to the Weekly Mail or restraining the Weekly Mail from publishing whatever information either party so wishes."

He said his intention in initially agreeing to defence force chief General Georg Meiring's request to 'gag' the former

agents and the paper was to satisfy himself as to the security implications of the publication of such information.

Modise said: "I granted the permission because I did not want to read in newspapers about covert issues pertaining to my department about which I had not yet been briefed"

Modise's actions last week drew strong criticism from the SACP, Cosatu and the ANC, among others

Star

14/6/94



Modise withdraws gag on Weekly Mail

PRETORIA — Defence Minister Joe Modise has withdrawn an order restraining former military intelligence officers and the Weekly Mail & Guardian from divulging information about the former government's ANC and PAC informants.

He said he had satisfied himself that such information did not pose a threat to the democratic transition.

Intelligence sources have indicated that some senior Umkhonto we Sizwe officers, earmarked for top positions in the SANDF, had been spies for military intelligence.

Modise said that after examining information from former agents of the SADF's Directorate of Covert Collection, he had

STEPHANE BOTHMA

instructed the State attorney to withdraw the interdict he had obtained last Thursday against the newspaper and two former agents. The agents, Gerhard Jansen and Clive Brink, were restrained by the Transvaal Supreme Court from disclosing the names of alleged MK spies.

"I wish to make it clear that my intention, in initially agreeing to a request by (SANDF chief) Gen Georg Meiring for an interdict, was to satisfy myself as to the security implications of this issue," Modise said, reiterating his commitment to the principle of Press freedom.

Information Act 'needed to promote new state culture'

THE Independent Media Commission has recommended a freedom of information Act "to create the context for the seeds of a new state information culture" in SA.

In its final report to the Transitional Executive Council (TEC), the commission said existing legislation placed the obligation on individuals to prove why they needed access to information in the state's possession.

"In countries which have a freedom of information Act the obligation is on the state to prove why information being requested by a member of the public cannot be provided. Such an Act will help to protect and deepen the tentative efforts made by the commission to develop a democratic culture within information services in this country."

The commission said SA's state information services constituted an elaborate system of information gathering and recording. "Making the public aware that such information can be accessed should enlarge upon the expressed commitment of these services to move away from previously secretive approaches."

It also said the TEC's lack of response to requests to amend the Independent Media Commission Act was "considered to be unsatisfactory".

It said the Act in many ways frustrated the commission in trying to achieve its aims.

"The IMC requested the TEC to effect certain changes to the Act. Not all of these requests were implemented by the TEC. *Biday 14/6/94*

Giving an example, the commission said it was unable to act against a KwaZulu government-financed publication advancing the interests of the Inkatha Freedom Party because, in terms of the Act, the IFP was not considered a political party because at that stage it was not participating in the elections.

Conversely, parties not taking part in the elections were not entitled to equitable treatment by broadcasters.

However, the commission said the IFP had received equitable election coverage before its 11th-hour decision to participate in the April polls.

243 Criticised

"Particularly, but by no means only, on Radio Zulu, coverage of the IFP was near, or on occasion greater than, that of the ANC and the NP.

"The nature of the coverage also afforded the IFP frequent opportunity to outline its policies to the electorate," the commission said in its report.

The commission criticised SABC news managers for inadequate professionalism during the election period. Commission chairman Judge Ramon Leon said there was no evidence to suggest deliberate bias.

"What has emerged is an inadequate standard of professionalism among middle and senior news managers. This was due in part to lack of experience and probably in part to having to deal with a new situation involving 26 political parties, 22-million voters as well as a system of proportional representation."

The report quoted European Union broadcasting expert John Grist as saying particular failures by the SABC could usually be put down to incompetence, bad habits, lack of training or poor management.

The commission included an interim report by the Media Monitoring Project that said many television news reports had lacked clarity because linked events were itemised instead of being "packaged" in a single report.

Viewers had been distracted from the news by "bobbing heads moving across the bottom of the screen or presenters spending a good deal of time talking to the wrong camera."

Leon concluded. "Overall, I believe that equitability was achieved." — Sapa.

Mediation over pay dispute today

Pickets present as Argus is listed

BY JOVIAL RANTAO
LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

As Argus Newspapers executives listed the company — under new majority owner Tony O'Reilly — on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange yesterday, some of its employees held a picket demonstration, demanding a 13-15 percent wage increase.

The demonstration by members of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa) and the South African Union of Journalists (SAUJ) follows failure by the Conciliation Board to resolve the wage dispute, which goes to mediation today.

Acting Mwasa president Mathatha Tsedu said yesterday's

picket had been a huge success which also brought the dispute to the public's attention.

"When we put back the strike action we were giving mediation a chance," he added.

SAUJ chief negotiator Marka Sporos said the pickets showed that union members "resolved to back up their demands for a fair wage increase with action was undimmed." (2/12)

Advertisement

The two unions were going into mediation today with open minds and in good faith, she said, but she was not so sure that the same applied to management.

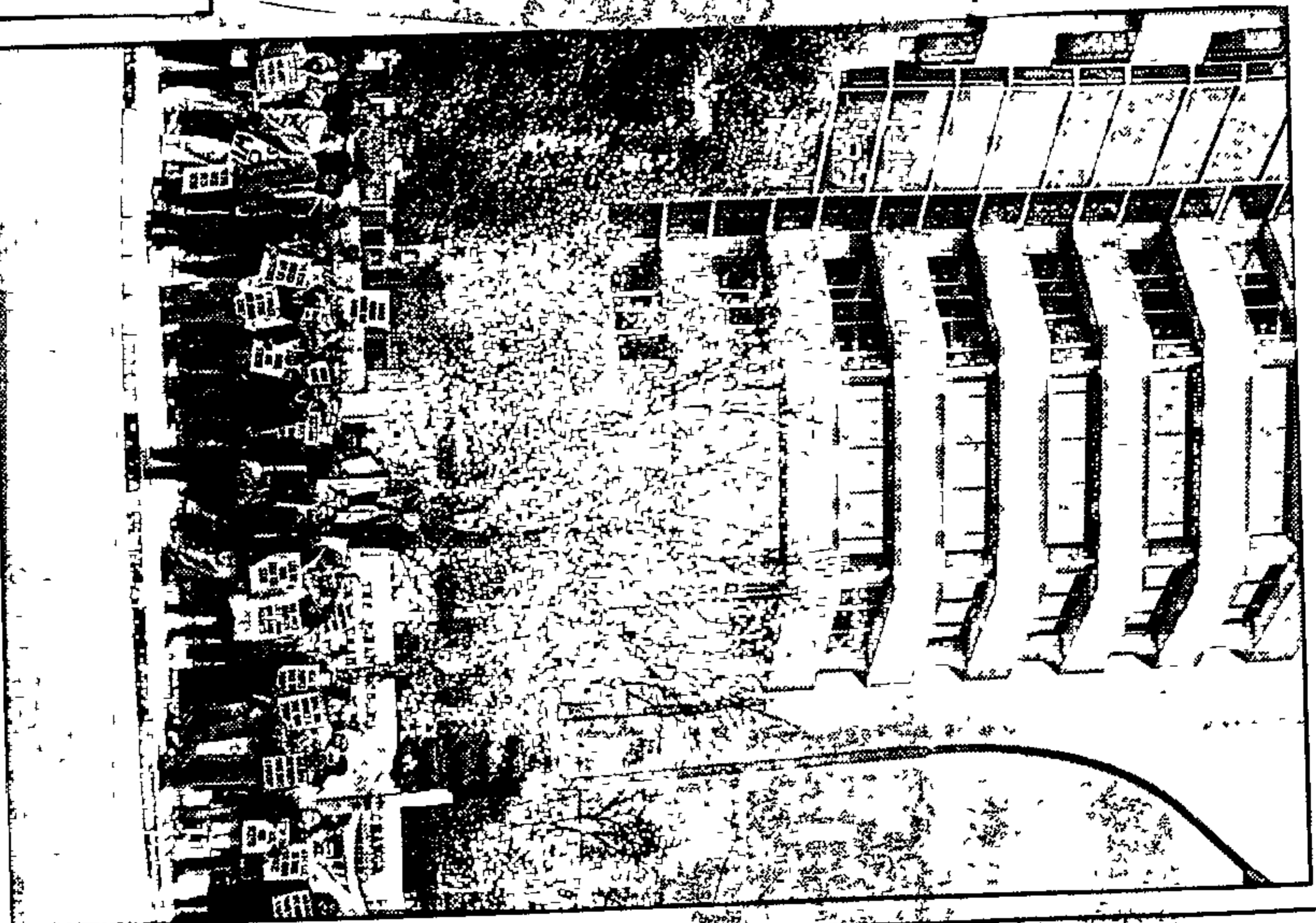
In an advertisement, Argus Newspapers personnel consul-

tant Roger Wellsted said more than 80 percent of the company's 6 700 staff had accepted the 8 percent increase offer.

He said that two years ago Argus had agreed, with the unions, to introduce a job-grading and merit-recognition programme for journalists. The unions had been involved in the implementation of the programme, which was separate from annual salary negotiations.

On the JSE, yesterday's share listing was seen as successful with the bid price well ahead of market predictions, which ranged from 800c to 950c.

The shares were quoted at 1 000c buyers, 1 500c sellers throughout the day, but none were traded.



Protest . . . journalists and media staff demonstrate outside the stock exchange yesterday. PICTURE DUIF DU TOIT



TML profit slips 3%

243

By MAGGIE ROWLEY
Deputy Business Editor

LOSSES from Playboy and expenses incurred to strengthen certain group products saw operating profit before extraordinary items of cash-flush Times Media Ltd (TML) down 3% at R49,9m despite an 8% increase in turnover to R377,7m for the year to end March.

However, operating profit after the abnormal item was up 7%. It had not been necessary to make further provision for the incentive bonus scheme due to the lower rate of increase in the TML share price.

The lower company tax rate, and a 69% drop in the interest bill to R1,6m, saw profit after tax up 37% at R31,2m. A drop in earnings from associated companies saw profit before extraordinary items tempered to a 15% rise to R43,8m.

After extraordinary items totalling R30,9m and consisting mainly of TML's R18,4m share of M-Net's extraordinary items, the R10,4m profit on the sale of the Legion investments and the R8,7m surplus on the liquidation of Dispatch Media Limited, profit soared 94% to R74,7m.

Earnings at the share level were up 14% while the final dividend was raised to 58c (24c) bringing the total for the year to 82c — up 15%.

'Above expectations'

MD Roy Paulson said the trading level for the year was above expectations and had been helped particularly in the second half by political and cellular telephone advertising. The losses incurred by Playboy had been anticipated. However, both Playboy's circulation and advertising levels had substantially exceeded expectations.

TML was bullish about the current year's prospects. Surplus funds stood at about R100m derived in part from the sale of its minority interests in Natal Newspapers, Pretoria News and the Cape Joint Operating Agreement together with the title of the Cape Times as of April 1 for R61m.

Paulson said there were no immediate plans on how this money might be spent but they "would look at anything relevant to our organisation".

Modise backs
down on Weekly
Mail interdict (243)

APUG 14/6/74
Political Correspondent

DEFENCE Minister Joe Modise has told the state-attorney to withdraw an interdict barring publication of disclosures by former covert operations staffers.

The interdict, granted last week, prevented the Weekly Mail and Guardian from publishing claims by former covert operations staffers that members of the African National Congress alliance and Pan Africanist Congress had been informants for the Nationalist government.

Democratic Party spokesman on the media Dene Smuts welcomed Mr Modise's decision "to desist from attempts to silence the Press".

Media commission urges freedom of information Act

Star 14/16/94

The Independent Media Commission has recommended a freedom of information Act "to create the context for the seeds of a new State information culture" in South Africa.

In its final report to the Transitional Executive Council, the IMC said existing legislation placed the obligation on individuals to prove why they needed access to information in the State's possession (243)

"In countries which have a freedom of information Act the obligation is on the State to prove why information being requested by a member of the public cannot be provided

"Such an Act will help to protect and deepen the tentative ef-

forts made by the IMC to develop a democratic culture within information services in SA."

The IMC said South Africa's State information services constituted an elaborate system of information-gathering and recording.

"Making the public aware that such information can be accessed should enlarge upon the expressed commitment of these services to move away from previously secretive approaches."

The IMC criticised SABC news managers for inadequate professionalism during the election period. But IMC chairman Mr Justice Ramon Leon said there was no evidence to suggest deliberate bias. — Sapa.

Demand for law on the right to know

CT 14/6/94 (243)

JOHANNESBURG — The Independent Media Commission has recommended a freedom of information Act "to create the context for the seeds of a new state information culture"

In its final report to the Transitional Executive Council, the IMC said existing laws placed the obligation on individuals to prove why they needed access to information in the state's possession.

"In countries which have a freedom of information act the obligation is on the state to prove why information being requested by a member of the public cannot be provided

"Such an act will help to protect and deepen the efforts made to develop a democratic culture."

● The IMC was critical in its report of SABC news managers for "inadequate" professionalism during the election period

IMC chairman Mr Justice Ramon Leon said there was no evidence to suggest deliberate bias.

"What has emerged is an inadequate standard of professionalism due in part to lack of experience and probably in part to having to deal with a new situation involving 26 political parties and 22 million voters." — Sapa

Modise withdraws Mail action

By BARRY STREEK

243

THE Minister of Defence, Mr Joe Modise, backed down yesterday from his decision to seek an interdict to prevent the Weekly Mail from publishing reports about the controversial Directorate of Covert Collection (DCC) and its former employees

Mr Modise announced this after he was sharply criticised in the media and the ANC. He was accused of restricting press free-

dom and the ANC said it was "regrettable" that Mr Modise, himself a senior ANC member, had agreed to the application

21416194
He said yesterday he had examined information from former intelligence officers of the DCC that certain members of the ANC alliance, the PAC and others, had acted as informants of the apartheid state

"Having satisfied myself that such information does not pose a

threat to the democratic transition, I have instructed the state attorney to withdraw the interdict

"I want to make it clear that my intention, in initially agreeing to General (Georg) Meiring's request for an interdict, was to satisfy myself as to the security implications of the issue I have now done so.

"I wish to reiterate my commitment to press freedom," he said

Argus staff picket JSE

JOHANNESBURG — About 80 employees of the Star and Sowetan newspapers yesterday demonstrated outside the Johannesburg Stock Exchange against Argus Newspapers' eight percent pay rise offer

Argus Newspapers was listed on the JSE yesterday morning. (243) (14/6/94)

The Media Workers of South Africa (Mwasa) acting president Mr Mathatha Tsedu said the demonstrations had been held to inform the public of the employees' plight, not to prevent the Argus listing (243) (14/6/94)

Asked if the demonstrations had been effective, South African Union of Journalists (SAUJ) chief negotiator Ms Marika Sboros said "Argus management is embarrassed . . . If there is no substantial movement (in the wage offer) things could be very bleak for the flow of information"

A deadlock was declared last month between the Argus and the two unions and the dispute will go to mediation today. The SAUJ want a pay rise of 13% and Mwasa 15% — Sapa

City rates shock

Extra 10% on top of 9.5%

By PETER DENNEHY

CITY ratepayers were warned last night they may have to pay an extra 10% or more on top of the budgeted annual rates increase of 9.5%.

While executive committee chairman Mr Clive Keegan honoured his undertaking to keep the budgeted increase to 9.5%, Mr Neil Ross warned that on top of this, ratepayers may have to pay an extra 10% or more in the financial year ending June 1995. Mr Keegan presented a R2.5 billion budget which he described as the last that would be delivered to an all-white Cape Town City Council.

Yet Mr Ross said a Transitional Metropolitan Council (TMC), expected "within months", would demand an extra amount from each council in greater Cape Town. The present budget was "a holding operation", he said. Mr Keegan said there were too many uncertainties to budget for a TMC levy. Such a demand on the council would be dealt with by presenting ratepayers with an "auxiliary budget". But Mr Leon Markovitz said the increase "is not 9.5%".

"You have plundered the water accounts reserve," he alleged. Councillor Mr Kenneth Penkin said he could not support the budget, as the R24m to R30m owed to the council by black local authorities had been noted as an amount owing, instead of a bad debt that should be written off. Mr Arthur Wienburg said the council was spending like an incontinent unable to control his bladder.

"Exco has adopted an irresponsible and lavish capital expenditure programme," he said. "The operating budget will again come under strain. 17.8% of it goes on capital charges." This year's capital budget estimate is R546m, and the operating expendi-

ture, or total running cost, is expected to be R1.9 billion.

Features of the budget include:

- No allowance made for expenditure on infrastructure for the Olympic Games. The bid committee originally expected the council to spend R51m in the coming year.
- A nine percent electricity price rise from August 1, months earlier than the usual summer increase, and a five percent rise in water fees from July 1 for all but those who use less than 30 kilowatts in three months. Electricity service expenditure, at R168m, will be 86% higher than last year's.
- A R10 a month increase in council-house rentals from July 1 — twice as much as last year's R5 increase. In the council's ownership schemes, administration charges will rise from R18.50 to R21 a month.
- R3m will be taken from council reserves to repay debt sooner so as to reduce the impact of capital costs on the operating account.

● A further R3.5m, also from reserves, will be used to cushion the impact on poorer ratepayers of the overturning of the new property valuations last year. This is less than last year's R5m.

Loophole

● Mr Keegan expects that the problem that delayed the budget this year — a legal loophole which made the council fear it would be R20m short of rates normally collected from 36 000 homes in the process of being sold — will be sorted out at provincial level before the end of this month. Should this not occur, however, the council will either have to impose an additional levy on ratepayers, or take yet more money from reserves.

- R10m in the budget has been earmarked for cableway expropriation.
- Extra cash for low-cost units.

— Page 4



HORRIFYING DEATH Miss Arthea Arendse, 17, shows a picture of her brother Marius, 19, whom she saw die when he slipped and fell under the wheels of the schoolbus which was to have taken them home to Darling from Atlantiff's yesterday afternoon. Marius was a promising rugby player who was recently chosen to play at the Craven Rugby Week in Secunda in July. *Picture: ANNE LAING*

Boy crushed under bus

By EUNICE RIDER
A PROMISING schoolboy rugby player was crushed to death under the wheels of the schoolbus he was trying to board as his younger brother and sister watched, unable to help.

Marius Arendse, 19, a popular maric pupil at the Robinvale Senior Secondary School in Atlantis, had apparently run after the bus and grabbed onto a frame around the door, when he slipped and fell yesterday.

A distraught Mr Newton Arendse said his son's head was crushed under the bus' wheels.

Dozens of Marius' friends and family members yesterday gathered at his 12th Avenue home to comfort his family.

Brother watched

Marius' shocked brother, Rowan, and his sister, Anthea, 17, who were also on the bus, told of the horror of seeing Marius fall and land under the bus.
"Marius was running next to the bus, holding on, when he suddenly fell down and landed under the wheels.
"It all happened very quickly," said Rowan.

He added there was nothing he or his sister could do to help. Mr Arendse said his son was recently chosen to represent Boland at the Craven Week Rugby in Secunda.

Mrs Arendse said Marius was "mad about his rugby". He played for the Darling Club and had recently been chosen to play in the Boland Development Team during the Craven Rugby Week to be held in Secunda over the July school holidays.
Mrs Arendse said her son had also represented Boland at Craven Rugby Weeks in the under-13 and under-17 teams.



Mwasa and SAUJ make offer

Breakthrough in Press wage dispute

Sowetan 15/6/94

By Sapa and Ike Motsapi

UNION representatives in the media industry would recommend a settlement of their wage dispute with Argus Newspapers following a mediation session with management in Johannesburg yesterday (243) (255)

The Media Workers' Association of South Africa and the South African Union of Journalists undertook to report back to their members this week and recommend settlement, mediators Mr Charles Nupen and Mr Vusi Masinga said in a statement last night

The parties have arrived at a position acceptable to management but have chosen not to disclose the contents of the settlement proposal at this stage

The unions will report back to management at noon on Friday.

Mwasa is demanding a 15 percent salary increase for its members back-

dated to April 1. Management has made an offer of eight percent.

Members of the SAUJ are demanding an across-the-board salary increase of 13 percent backdated to April 1.

Meanwhile, the South African Commercial Catering and Allied Workers' Union yesterday said it had noted with concern the effort by Argus "to seek publicity and their bid to distort information around the dispute".

In an advertisement placed in *The Star* on Monday, Argus group human resources manager Mr Roger Wellsted said the company was keen to resolve the matter.

Saccawu was reacting to the advert in which management said the union had "settled at eight percent".

Wellsted also said in the advert that more than 80 percent of the company's 6 700 staff had accepted the eight percent increase offer.

stat 1616194

Argus pay deal on cards

Indications yesterday were that members of trade unions involved in a wage dispute with Argus Newspapers would accept an improved offer made by management.

This would effectively remove threats of a strike. South African Union of Journalists and the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa) members in Johannesburg yesterday accepted the offer, but Mwasa members in Durban turned it down.

The unions and management are expected to sign a settlement agreement when they meet mediators Charles Nupen and Vusi Masinga tomorrow. — Labour Correspondent.

(243) (S) (S)

Military vs the press: A fight for the soul of democracy

Governments all over the world have grappled with the problem facing Defence Minister Joe Modise when he tries to protect his spies, writes **Norman Manóim**

AS the minister of defence begins to assess the political damage created by his "hot pursuit" raid against this newspaper last week he might be comforted in the knowledge that he has joined that select club of international politicians who have attempted with similar lack of success to use the courts to stop publication of information about their secret services that would more properly belong in a John le Carré novel.

The now-defunct application relied on broadly stated provisions in the Defence Act and Protection of Information Act (the euphemistic new label for what was the Official Secrets Act). While such clumsy legislation might not withstand constitutional scrutiny in terms of our new Chapter of Fundamental Rights it does not mean the problem will go away.

International experience shows that courts have allowed more sophisticated but not less far-reaching "official secrets type legislation" to live side by side with Bills of Rights through a muddled balancing of the competing interests at stake.

Anglo-American jurisprudence has long allowed matters of state security, the national interest, executive privilege — call it what you will but it amounts to much the same thing — protection from being thrust unwillingly into the public domain. Classic examples would be movements of troops in wartime, military secrets and the identity of covert agents.

In these types of cases a government will argue that it has a legitimate interest in protecting its citizens from those with hostile designs on the state.

In order to protect its citizens from those quarters as part of its defence and, most specifically, that of a confidential informant for this it needs to rely on spies, informers and turncoats. The security agency's very relationship with these people depends on

the understanding that their identities will be protected at all times. Without this discretion there is little incentive for informers to offer their services and a spy who is publicly known for his professional calling as such is of little service to his master. Hence the public's right to know must be subordinated to these broader considerations of the safety of the state.

Our common law — as indeed does that of many other legal systems — has long recognised that in criminal matters the identities of police informants is a privileged matter and that not even accused persons are entitled to this information against the wishes of the state.

Those wishing to justify the privilege of the intelligence agency's informer argue that their situation is a logical extension of the "cop-nark" relationship albeit that their intelligence gathering may not directly relate to the criminal justice system.

The public interest in maintaining the opacity of this security surveillance system might be compelling if all spy masters and all informants were boy scouts and all their victims were fiends. Yet the record of security agencies even in the most democratic countries has been a sorry one and abuse is widespread.

The very notion of defining a state security interest which is apparently a national one as opposed to a party-political one is tenuous indeed. Given the awesome powers that most governments invest their security services with the potential for abuse is compelling.

The only proper security against that threat, it is argued by libertarians, is openness and accountability. Most governments do not ensure that their secret services obey the Queen'sbury rules.

Only a watchdog press which will fearlessly publish embarrassing scandals can keep it in check. The courts therefore should lean heavily they argue in protecting the press from gagging interdicts in the name of "national security".

Internationally, however, the record of the courts in this regard has done little to bring comfort to libertarians.

(213) WJM 17-23/6/84

him information in its files concerning particular individuals who criticised the administration.

When one of these individuals sought to see these summaries some years later he was told that they were investigatory records to which he was not entitled by virtue of an exemption from disclosure clause in the Freedom of Information Act.

The hapless victim's argument that the summaries were prepared for "political" and not "law enforcement" purposes did not persuade the court.

In 1985 a senior civil servant in the British Ministry of Defence Clive Ponting was charged under the Official Secrets Act for passing to MPs a document concerning the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, the General Belgrano. The judge instructed the jury that in the light of past precedents in defining the national interest, the defendant was guilty. Fortunately for Ponting the jury rejected this advice and he was acquitted.

As in Ponting's situation, court battle arise over these issues when the state seeks to muzzle one of its former servants. In 1978 a former CIA agent called Shepp published a book containing information learnt while he was working at the CIA.

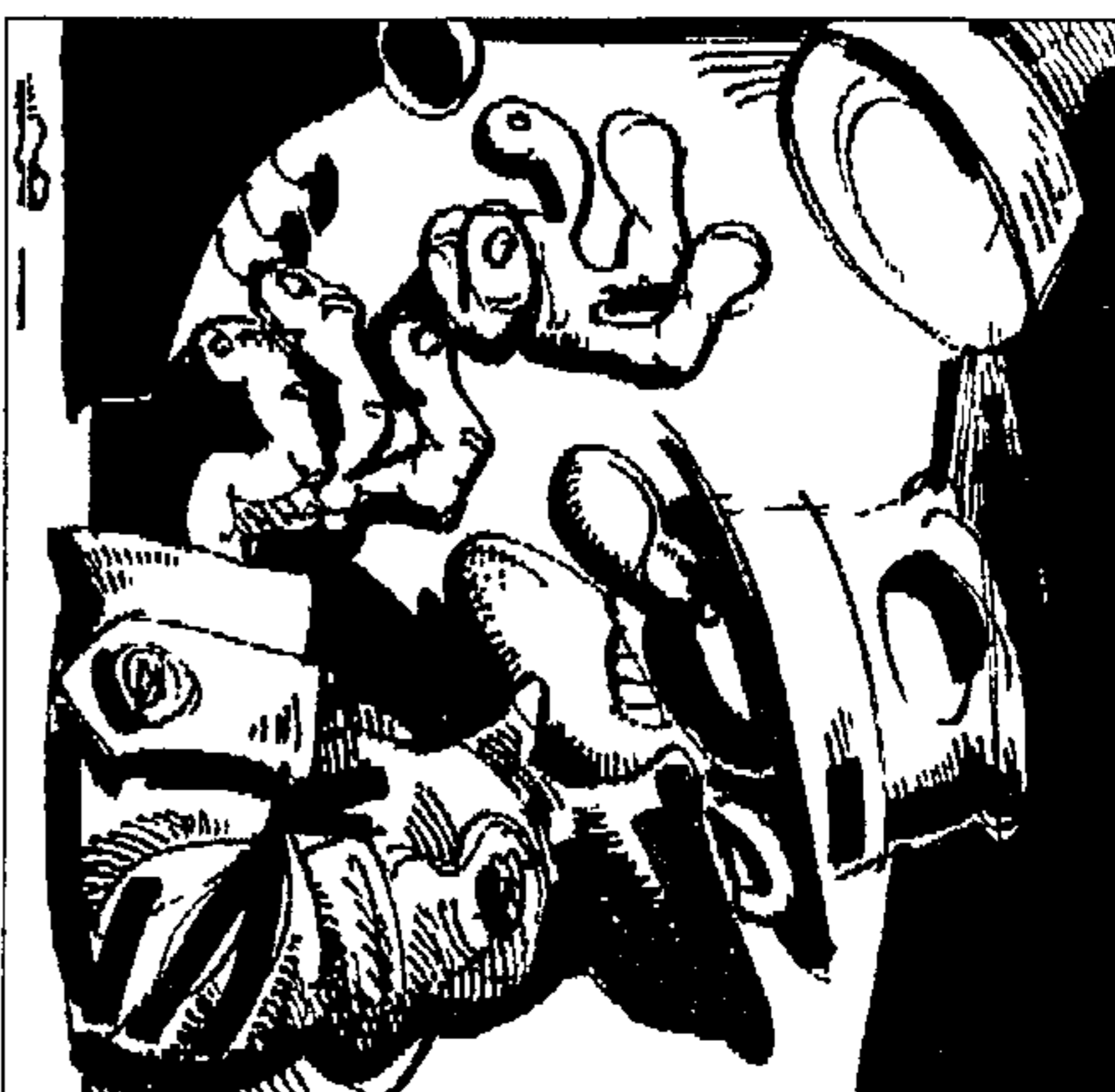
The CIA sued him for damage for breaching his employment contract, which required that no employment could publish information without CIA prepublication approval.

The court rejected Shepp's freedom of expression claims and found for the United States government holding that the contract was an appropriate method to protect intelligence sources and activities from unauthorised disclosures.

In the late 1970s in the US a spate of revelations that named several American covert foreign intelligence agents led Congress to pass the Intelligence Identity Protection Act of 1982 which made it a criminal offence to make such disclosure.

Widespread criticism followed the passing of this Act, but to date, unusually for the US, no litigation has ensued challenging the Act.

Perhaps the cause *celebre* in the battle between press and politician over the heart of national security is the Pentagon Papers case in 1971. The *New York Times* obtained



detailed documentation of a top secret government study on the decision-making process on Vietnam policy. The day after the first article appeared, the government requested the newspaper to refrain from publishing and when it refused to do so brought an interdict under the Espionage Act.

Although the *Times* won the case and the press claimed a temporary victory there was no victory for clarity on the issue for future legal policy, as the various judges gave quite different reasons for their decisions — leaving commentators who had hoped for a definitive answer none the wiser.

Similar comments are made about the Spycatcher saga after the British government was unsuccessful in preventing publication in British newspapers of extracts from a former MI5 agent's book.

One English commentator summed up the litigation as "time consuming and confusing". Some commentators offer a middle-of-the-road solution. The government itself should never be in a position to judge whether information is prejudicial to the national interest. Where such a situation arises, a decision should be made to a court after a court has been appraised in camera if necessary with the details sought to be disclosed why they are

susceptible to state confidentiality and what national interest would be prejudiced if the details were made public.

This of course places both security services and courts in a situation where neither of them feel comfortable. Most spooks regard giving confidential information to a judge even in private as tantamount to broadcasting on FM stereo to the enemy while the courts feel distinctly uncomfortable assessing the merits of state secrecy.

The lesson of international experience is that the courts have done little for either legal certainty or freedom of expression. This is not through any lack of ingenuity but because concepts like the national interest are political notions not susceptible to any detached objective judicial evaluation in the way that the courts might interpret the provisions of a contract.

No magically worded statute nor inspired judge will ever satisfactorily resolve the conflict between the media and the military over the soul of democracy. The best security for expression in this perennial conflict is a civil society and media, suitably cynical of state claims to privacy and insistent on their right to know.

Norman Manóim is a lawyer at Cheadle, Hayson and Thompson.

Mushrooms and the media

Stephen Lauffer

WHEN Ronald Reagan was inaugurated in 1981, he found a White House press office which hadn't changed much since a century earlier when Abe Lincoln wrote his Gettysburg address by the light of an oil lamp. Within weeks, the media-conscious Holly-wood president had ushered in the age of the spin doctor.

Under Reagan, early morning meetings of the president's top media advisors were soon attempting to set the nation's — and the world's — daily news agenda by skillfully timing announcements, speeches and political responses. A veritable army of press aides spent their days giving the official "spin" to any story coming out of or likely to affect the presidency.

Championing transparency, the new South African government faces a similar need to modernise the way its officials relate to the media, if for

different reasons. Yet the challenge here is not to introduce more razzmatazz into press relations, as Reagan did, but to turn around an information culture which for four decades was predicated on the mushroom principle: keep the population in the dark, spread manure over them, and if a clear head shows itself, cut it off.

It may be tempting to replace the old style "fax us the questions and we'll fax you the answers" with corporate communications song and dance, but that is not what South African democracy needs. The Reagan press office should not be the alternative — too blatant, and often enough too successful, were the attempts to influence the media unduly, to set the pace, and to deflect attention from sensitive areas.

What South Africa needs is an open relationship between politics and the press, not a slick media operation inspired by corporate

communications practitioners. There are some good media professionals among the government's new appointments, people like Nelson Mandela's Joel Netshitenzhe and Kader Asmal's advisor, Tony Heard, who understand the intricate task of transformation required. They will have to look for a middle way, a role as true bridges between politicians, the press and, via them, the public.

They will have to move quickly to ensure that a debacle like Defence Minister Joe Modise's attempt to gag the *Weekly Mail & Guardian* last week never happens again.

Modise walked into a minefield, because he was without professional guidance. Imagine if he had been advised immediately of the potential pitfalls by his press people, if he had been warned of the downside to Meiring's proposed course of action against the *W/M&G*. Instead, nothing had changed since the era when the press was kept in check by a combi-

243 W/M/7-23/6/94

nation of heavy-handed authoritarianism and patronage. Government spokesmen were not regarded as essential political advisors in the ministry of defence, and the minister is paying the price.

South African politics has changed, and so must the role of ministerial spokesmen. The Modise debacle shows how urgent it is that government press operations are jacked up to a level where spokesmen's professional advice is sought on a regular basis by the political principals — in the interests of a free flow of information, but also in the interests of confidentiality on those rare occasions where its maintenance is truly justified.

Modise's embarrassment must serve as an urgent message to a government whose stated aim is to act transparently and to involve the population in debate on the major decisions of state. The primary task of spokesmen as politics become more complex must be to inform



Joe Modise ... Needs a new style debate through a new culture of openness and accessibility.

Their secondary task is to ensure that the dinosaurs of the old order — many of whom, like General Georg Meiring, will remain in office for reasons of national reconciliation — should not be allowed to colour relations between the government and the media by actions motivated by the old mushroom thinking.

Star 18/6/1994

Argus pay deal with unions averts strike

JOVIAL RANTAO

ARGUS Newspapers and the SAUJ and MWASA, the two trade unions with which it has been involved in a wage dispute, yesterday reached and signed a settlement, ending a month-long pay deadlock and averting possible strike action.

The parties reached an agreement on an 8 per cent wage increase, backdated to April 1, and a further 2 percent to 10 percent, across the board from July 1. The deal includes a 15 percent bonus sacrifice, limiting overall increased cost to the company of the offer to 8 percent for the 12 months, if the company does not exceed its profit forecast by 5 percent.

Argus Newspapers says:

IN A press statement issued yesterday, Argus Newspapers said the bonus sacrifice stipulated in its settlement with the two trade unions would become void if Argus Newspapers in the 12 months to March 31 1995 achieves an attributable profit of R34 240 000, effectively 5 percent higher than the profit forecast in the pre-listing statement. In this case, the overall cost

to the company of the wage settlement will increase. The Argus statement said that, furthermore, the company will, through its job pay restructuring programme, introduce a minimum salary of R1 350 a month from October 1 1994.

Argus Newspapers group personnel consultant Roger Wellsted said the deal represented a significant improvement on the company's offer, linked to an incentive profit-sharing component. "We have been looking for some time at ways to reward increased productivity and this innovative approach by the unions may lead to new initiatives to achieve this," he said.

"This has been a year for flexible wage increase offers and the unions in turn have exercised innovative variations on the agreed 8 percent annual cost to the company mandate," said Wellsted.

"In the phase-in of the company job pay restructuring exercise, the flexibility of the wage agreements, tied in with the cost constraints resulting from the recent recession, has required careful balancing to achieve the new pay philosophy of the company agreed two years ago. We will continue exploring the principle of productivity incentives with our staff," he said.

The unions say:

NEWSPAPER unions MWASA and SAUJ issued a statement saying the settlement showed what it was possible to achieve when workers united in action.

They expressed gratitude to all the organisations, both locally and abroad, that had offered their spontaneous and wholehearted support, including pressure on Argus management to improve their wage offer.

MWASA acting president Mathatha Tsedu said the deal highlighted the union's justifiable opposition to management's earlier offers.

Said Tsedu: "This is a lesson to management to take workers' grievances seriously, and forever to negotiate in good faith with union leaders, to avoid unnecessary confrontation in the future."

SAUJ chief negotiator Marka Sboros said the extremely constructive co-operation between the unions had bolstered the strength of both sides.

"We hope it is the shape of things to come," she said, adding "The SAUJ will be pursuing unity talks with MWASA."

□ □ □

The Media Workers Association of South Africa and the SA Union of Journalists have settled their individual disputes with Argus Newspapers following mediation by the Independent Mediation Services of SA.

Argus Newspapers improved its wage offer by two percent, offering a 10 percent across-

Compiled

the-board increase.

□ □ □

(243)
ARG 18/10/99

ANC says news blackout would be unfortunate

Political parties support media unions in dispute

Star 8/6/94

■ **BY JOVIAL RANTAO**
LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

The ANC and the Workers List Party threw their weight behind the two unions involved in a wage dispute with Argus Newspapers and the South African Press Association yesterday.

The Media Workers Association of South Africa (Mwasa) and the SA Union of Journalists (SAUJ) are demanding a 15 per cent and 13 per cent salary increase respectively. The two companies are offering 8 per cent backdated to April 1 or 9 per cent backdated to May 13.

ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday: "One of the most important features of a democracy is a vigorous and inquiring press. It is therefore most unfortunate that

Argus Newspapers chief executive John Featherstone said the company would welcome an opportunity of meeting jointly with Mwasa and the SAUJ for mediation of issues in dispute.

"We will ask Ramaphosa for the opportunity to present our side of the issue, which we believe will demonstrate our good faith in dealing with the issues he has raised, he said.

Members of the SAUJ last week voted for industrial action after wage talks with management deadlocked. Mwasa employees of Argus Newspapers in Natal and of the Sowetan have voted for the strike. Results of the Mwasa strike ballot held at The Star yesterday will be announced today.

Support for the unions is growing. The Workers List Party

(WLP) yesterday joined local political parties and trade unions which have pledged support.

In Ireland, England and Australia, journalists at newspapers where Tony O'Reilly — the new majority owner at Argus Newspapers — has interests have promised to embark on solidarity picket demonstrations from tomorrow.

In a statement, the WLP said the 15 per cent increase demanded by Mwasa and the 13 per cent by the SAUJ was reasonable in the light of Argus's R63 million profit.

Journalists and media workers at Argus Newspapers and Sapa will begin protest action tomorrow that could culminate in a strike on Monday — the day on which Argus Newspapers is set to be listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Argus, unions settle wage dispute

JOHANNESBURG — Argus Newspapers yesterday settled its wage dispute with the Media Workers Association of South Africa and the South African Union of Journalists, following mediation earlier in the week.

The parties agreed to an eight percent pay rise across the board, backdated to April 1, and a further two percent from July. The deal includes a 15 percent bonus sacrifice if the company does not exceed its profit forecast by five percent.

Argus agreed to set a minimum monthly salary of R1 350

from October 1

SAUJ chief negotiator Marika Sboros said co-operation by the two unions had bolstered the strength of both. It was the first time they had co-operated on a shop-floor issue, having before joined forces only in Press freedom campaigns.

"We hope it is the shape of things to come," said Ms Sboros. ARG 18/6/94

Mwasa acting president Mathata Tsedu said the deal showed the unions' rejection of earlier pay offers had been justified. (243) ~~(243)~~

"This is a lesson to management to take workers' grievances seriously and negotiate in good faith with union leaders to avoid unnecessary confrontation in the future."

Argus Newspapers' group personnel consultant Roger Wellsted said the improved offer was linked to an incentive profit-sharing scheme.

"We have been looking for some time at ways to reward increased productivity and this innovative approach by the unions may lead to new initiatives to achieve this" — Sapa.

Wage dispute settled

By Mokgadi Pela

THE month-long wage dispute between the Argus company and two media unions came to an end when they agreed on a settlement in Johannesburg on Friday.

The Argus, the Media Workers' Association of SA and the SA Union of Journalists agreed to an eight percent across the board wage increase backdated to April 1 and a further two percent across the board from July 1, 1994.

The parties were represented by Mr Mathatha Tsedu of Mwasa,

Ms Marika Sboros of the SAUJ and Mr Roger Wellsted of the Argus.

The deal includes a 15 percent bonus sacrifice if the company does not exceed its profit forecast by five percent (243) (255)

Bonus sacrifice

The bonus sacrifice becomes void if Argus Newspapers in the 12 months to March 31 1995 achieves an attributable profit of R34 240 000, effectively five percent higher than the profit forecast in the pre-listing statement.

The company will, through its job-

We hope it is a sign of things to come.

The SAUJ will be pursuing unity talks with Mwasa in the weeks ahead

pay restructuring programme, introduce a minimum monthly salary of R1 350 from October 1. Wellsted said the deal was a signifi-

cant improvement on the company's offer, linked to an incentive profit-sharing component

United in action

Union leaders said the deal showed what could be achieved when workers were united in action. They thanked all organisations, both locally and abroad, which had offered support.

"This is a lesson to management to take workers' grievances seriously and to negotiate in good faith with union leaders to avoid unnecessary confrontation in the future," Tsedu said.

Sboros said: "The extremely constructive co-operation between the two unions bolstered the strength of both sides

"We hope it is a sign of things to come. The SAUJ will be pursuing unity talks with Mwasa in the weeks ahead."

Editor's trial: CCB man 'investigated'

JOHANNESBURG — Former Civil Co-operation Bureau co-ordinator Mr Staal Burger was mentioned in a report which led to former President FW de Klerk placing seven SADF members on compulsory leave and 16 individuals on compulsory retirement during December 1992

This was said yesterday by former SADF Chief of Staff Lt-Gen Pierre Steyn in the Regional Court trial of Weekly Mail newspaper co-editor Mr Anton Harber, M and G Media Pty (Ltd) and private investigator Mr Jan Kleynhans (243)

Gen Steyn said the report, drawn up by himself, referred to SADF members as well as civilian collaborators and that Mr Burger fell under the latter heading.

The accused have denied charges that Mr Burger's dignity had been impaired by a telephone tap in his office during August 1992

The magistrate, Mr F Roets, refused an application to discharge these charges, but discharged a count of malicious damage to the skirting board in which a listening device was placed. According to evidence, the hole in the skirting board was barely visible.

Defence counsel Mr E Dane said that while the accused stood by their denial that Mr Burger had suffered impairment of dignity, their alternate defence was "justification" arising from the public's "right to know"

Gen Steyn was the first witness called by the defence. The trial continues on November 28 — Sapa

CF 29/9/94

Call to restrict legal sanctions on the press

CT 30/6/94
JOHANNESBURG. — Press Council chairman Professor Kobus van Rooyen called yesterday for the "extremely restricted" application of Section 205 of the Criminal Procedures Act, which forces journalists to reveal sources. (243)

He told a broadcasting industry summit: "Journalists should only in extreme circumstances . . . be under a legal obligation to give evidence of what they have gathered in the course of their profession

"The Appellate Division's judgment (in 1982) placing absolute liability on newspapers for defamatory statements" should be rejected or repealed.

"The administration of justice should be subject to rigorous scrutiny, and unless a newspaper intentionally prints misleading information about a case or intentionally prejudices the outcome of a case, there should be no criminal sanction," he said. — Sapa

Argus Holdings income up 8,3%

JOHANNESBURG —

Argus Holdings yesterday reported a 8,3% increase in attributable income to R101,8m (R94m) for the year to end March 1994 (213)

Argus said the improved profitability came about due to enhanced trading in the second half of the financial year, lower interest charges arising from effective working capital management, and reduced taxation from the drop in the corporate tax rate

Turnover rose 10,3% to R1,824bn (R1,653bn) while trading income only improved marginally 1,8% to R151,735m (R149,113m)

Lower interest paid of R7,869m (R11,142m) and reduced tax of R60,258m (R64,307m) resulted in a 13% improvement in net income after tax of R87,393m (R77,339m)

Earnings a share rose almost 7% to 235c a share (220c) and Argus declared a final dividend 5c higher at 45c a share, increasing the total distribution for the year 9,1% to 60c a share (55c)

M-Net continued to experience good growth in the period under review although Multi-Choice would continue to reflect development losses. — Sapa

Turnaround for Argus

Business Staff

THERE was a considerable turnaround in the fortunes of Argus Holdings in the second half of the financial year to March

In the first half, earnings per share were down two percent, but for the full year they rose 6,8 percent to 235c

After holding the interim dividend at 15c, Argus has raised the final by 12,5 percent to 45c, making a 9,1 increase for the year as a whole

The most significant turnaround was at the trading profit level, in which a 22,7 percent decline was turned into a 1,8 percent increase to R151,7 million

These are the last results to include Argus Newspapers, which was unbundled and separately listed earlier this month

The final price for which JCI and Anglo American sold their 31 percent holding in Argus Newspapers to Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers is not being disclosed, as there is no obligation to do so under present regulations

Argus Holdings financial director John Sturgeon says that information about the future direction of the remainder of Argus Holdings, including a new name, will be released along with the annual

report at the end of July

Group turnover was up 10,3 percent to R1,82 billion and there was a healthy decline in interest paid from R11,1 million to R7,9 million

Pre-tax profit was up 6,3 percent and net taxed income was up 13 percent to R87,4 million

Subsidiary CNA Gallo's earnings were up 9,1 percent, despite poor consumer spending

There was increased capital expenditure on the CNA chain and NuMetro

Remedial action has been taken to reduce working capital and will remain a priority focus

CNA Gallo hopes to reap the benefits of more buoyant consumer spending, once economic recovery really gets under way

Income from associates increased 2,9 percent to R61 million

M-Net continued to enjoy subscriber growth and good advertising support, but this was more than offset by significant development losses from MultiChoice in its operations in Africa as well as from FilmNet in Europe and its 25 percent holding in the MTN cellular network

CTP increased earnings by 14,4 percent and was able to re-equip

and expand printing capacity mainly through its own capital resources

TML had a buoyant second half after a lacklustre start to the year. It increased earnings 15 percent, despite development losses from Playboy

■ Buoyed by better results from all major divisions, Nasionale Pers Beperk lifted attributable net profit from its own operations to more than R100 million for the first time in the year to March 31

The group, which is now heading for a JSE listing, reported turnover grew 13 percent to a record R1 billion from R904,6 million. Pre-tax profit was 35,1 percent better at R156,1 million (R115,5 million)

With the tax bill dropping to R53,7 million from R56,8 million, the group's attributable net profit before its share in associates' losses was

R101,9 million (R57,9 million). Total net profit attributable to shareholders was 55,8 percent higher at R98,4 million (R63,1 million). Earnings per share, before the addition of the interest in associated companies, improved 75,4 percent from 524c to 919c

NEWS FEATURE *Journalists still struggling to protect media ethics despite law amendments*

To tell or not to tell?

South Africa 4/7/94

By Mzimasi Ngudle

HAT compels a journalist to abjure media ethics and disclose his source of information?

In the interests of the administration of justice, so goes a lofty and subtle answer, a journalist should be

W

compelled to be a witness
But who should decide what such interests entail still remains a will-o'-the-wisp

Should it be left to judges? Do lawyers have special access to the weight or value of important public interests?

Journalists, after all, can weigh reason as well as judges
Once the journalist is convinced that he has no reasonable way out other than not disclosing his source, should he then, as a matter of conviction, of civil disobedience, not disclose the source?

Many countries have afforded protection to journalists in varying degrees, without defining exactly what the circumstances are, leaving the fate of journalists uncertain

What transpires is that most legal systems have opted to leave the question to the discretion of the judges, thus creating a grey area, which shades off into black and white according to individual cases
In such cases, value judgments and abuse instantly come to mind

Most legal systems have opted to leave the question to judges

Except perhaps for Sweden and Austria, most countries including South Africa do not afford precise protection to journalists who refuse to reveal their sources
In Sweden a journalist who discloses his or her source is liable to prosecution

Swedish law prohibits the investigation or disclosure of a journalist's sources
The Austrian Media Act provides strong protection for the confidentiality of journalists' sources, including the content of the information.

ISSUES REMAIN

How to decide when

sources should be revealed.

The possibility for misuse remains substantial
He suggests that the restriction on disclosure should apply not only to direct orders to disclose the identity of the source, but also to any order for disclosure of material which will indirectly identify the source

Secondly, Van Rooyen notes, the establishment of the necessity for disclosure is a question of fact rather than an issue calling for the exercise of the judge's discretion

Van Rooyen contends that non-disclosure should be the basic right of every citizen, and compulsion to testify an exception rather than the norm

The dilemma of individual journalists is as great as ever

Conversely, Australian courts have held that a journalist has no better claim to protection than an ordinary litigant

There is, however, a rule of practice that reporters should have some protection of their sources

In other countries, including the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Netherlands and Ireland, a journalist's privilege to withhold the identity of his source ranges from strong to weak, without a blanket immunity to a compulsion to reveal a source

Journalists have been ordered to reveal information where there were *bond fide* and reasonable grounds to believe that they could assist in the identification of suspects.

In South Africa conflict between media ethics and interests of justice continues to revolve around the notorious section 205 of the Criminal Procedure Act

Even with amended legislation, the dilemma of individual journalists is as great as ever

In fact, as Press Council chairman Professor JCW van Rooyen argues, the Cornelissen judgment has made the amendment to Section 205 unnecessary (A resumé of this judgment appears in the box above right)

Nonetheless, after the Press Council prevailed upon the Government to narrow down, if not to repeal the section, Van Rooyen says the judgment's favourable interpretation now has an added imprimatur of Parliament in the amended Section 205

He notes that Parliament is also bound by the guarantee for freedom of speech in the new constitution

Van Rooyen hopes the Cornelissen judgment will set the trend for the interpretation of the new section

Quoting Lord Bridge, Van Rooyen says one important factor will be the nature of the information obtained from the source

"The greater the legitimate public interest in the information which the source has given to the publisher, the greater will be the importance of protecting that source"

"But another and perhaps more significant factor will be the manner in which the information was itself obtained by the source

"If it appears that information was obtained legitimately this will enhance the importance of protecting the source

"Conversely, if information was obtained illegally, this will diminish the importance of protecting the source unless this is counterbalanced by a clear public interest in the publication of the information"

Van Rooyen contends that the new section is "most definitely unreasonable in so far as journalists are con-

The right to know

243

Andries Cornelissen, a reporter from *Beeld* newspaper, won an appeal against his conviction and one year imprisonment for refusing to testify after having been subpoenaed in accordance with the section.

Mr Justice Schabert found that Cornelissen had a just excuse for his refusal to testify. He based his finding on the fact that

- A newspaper has a continuing duty in the public interest to collect newsworthy information and disseminate it.
- A newspaper's capacity to fulfil this duty depends on a trust relationship with the public.
- That Cornelissen had attended a

meeting where the then ANC Youth League leader, Mr Peter Mokaba, made statements of particular news value to him in his capacity as a journalist.

● That police made no meaningful attempt to obtain other witnesses — of which there were many.

● That Cornelissen would have prejudiced the esteem in which the public held him as an independent and objective journalist if he had subjected himself to questioning in accordance with the section.

● That Cornelissen had fulfilled his duty towards the police and the state by his willingness to swear to the truth of his article.

Union head quits position

JOHANNESBURG. —
South African Union of
Journalists president Ms
Yvonne Grimbeek re-
signed yesterday

The SAUJ branch at
the Star newspaper had
unanimously called for
her resignation (243)

This followed a rum-
pus over a letter to the
union's general-secre-
tary, signed by Ms Grim-
beek, saying the general-
secretary had not
resigned but had been
retrenched.

Ms Grimbeek said she
resigned after giving her
position "long and
thorough" consider-
ation — Sapa

ET 19/6/74

'No files' on Weekly Mail and Guardian ⁽²⁴³⁾ ~~(244)~~

JOHANNESBURG — Police say they have no files on the Weekly Mail and Guardian newspaper, the paper reported.

The newspaper recently requested its security police files and the files on several political figures, in terms of the new constitution's freedom of information clause.

The newspaper said yesterday the police had produced only one file, on co-editor Anton Harber. It contained a computer print-out of personal details, most of which were wrong.

This was the first time police had released a security file, the newspaper said.

"Other files we requested, some relating to African Na-

tional Congress leaders, will not be made available. Our sources inform us that these files, too, are lost."

The Weekly Mail quoted Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi as saying the police had no files on the newspaper. **AKG 23/7/94**

The newspaper said this was "despite the fact that during the 1980s the security police opened scores of dockets and conducted dozens of investigations into the paper".

It added "The police are either hiding the information they collected in the past, including information about individuals who are now leading members of the government, or they have destroyed the files." — Sapa.

Censorship 'by the mob' feared

ET 26/7/94 (243)

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — Many people in the townships regarded criticism of the new government as disloyalty, which put black journalists in danger.

In a Sunday Express article, Sowetan managing director Mr Joe Thlooe said South Africa was moving into an era of "censorship by the mob".

Sowetan editor Mr Aggrey Klaaste also feared that black journalists might face tough times.

"The ANC-led government will not be able to deliver on expectations," he said. "This will cause the first problems for newspapers."

Mr Klaaste said he was concerned that criticism of the new government might be interpreted by some people as being disloyal and destructive.

PRESS — 1994

AUG. — DEC.

Information Act 'soon'

By BARRY STREEK,

A FREEDOM of Information Act is expected to be drafted during the current session of Parliament, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday.

The legislation — first proposed by the Independent Media Commission — will give South Africans a legally enforceable right to information

kept by the government

Mr Mbeki said the act would extend the provisions already contained in the new constitution and bill of rights

"The government believes that various existing provisions in the constitution necessitate a Freedom of Information Act

"We believe that the protection of the rights of all South

243
CT 5/8/94
Africans, and the objectives of transparency and accountability, require that such an act should be passed

"We are therefore currently assessing how we should begin this process, because we believe that this too ought to be an inclusive process, drawing as many people as possible into a discussion leading to the drafting of such an act"

Argus loses ground in battle for black readers

Business Day 5/8/94

AMANDA VERMEULEN

THE battle for black readership took its toll in the first half of the year as Naspers's City Press gained circulation at the expense of Argus Newspapers' Sowetan and The Star.

Sowetan's average daily circulation dropped 6,9% to 217 823 in the six months to end-June from 234 096 in the first half of last year, the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) has reported.

City Press's circulation jumped 13,5% to 263 917. According to Lyndall Campher, MD of media buying company Eurospace, the Sowetan could have lost readers to City Press. Sowetan readers could also have defected to the Citizen, which increased circulation 4,3% to 140 595.

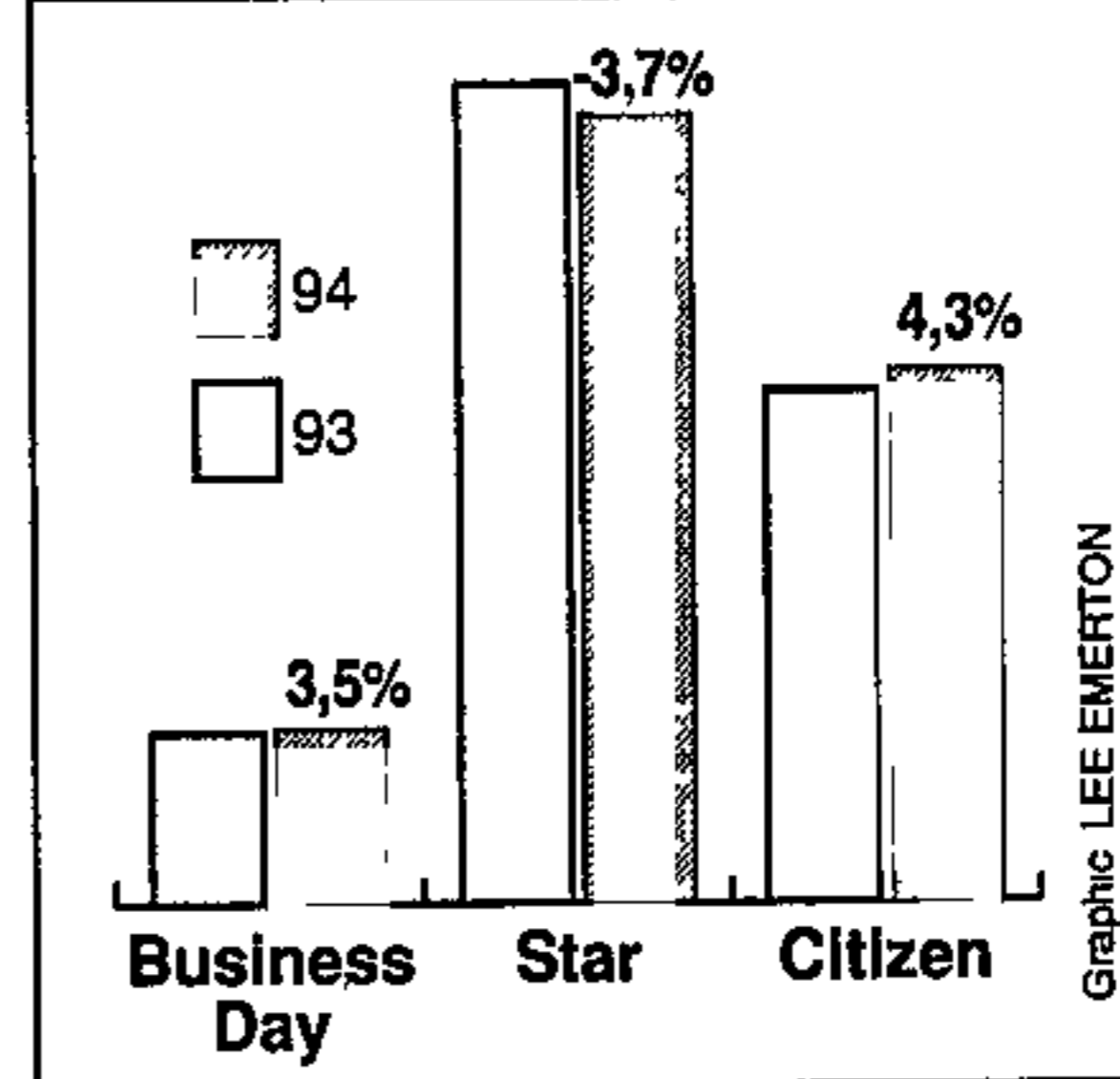
Business Day, which is targeted at the country's business and political leadership, lifted its sales by 3,5% to a record daily figure of 34 092.

In contrast, The Star, a general interest daily, suffered a 3,7% decline to 208 185.

The Star's weekend edition also lost circulation, dropping 2,8% to 162 111.

Business Day marketing manager Gisele Wertheim-Aymes said niche papers,

ABC sales
Comparison of Jan-June 93 vs Jan-June 94



which appealed to a specific group of readers, were gaining ground because they focused on the needs of their readers. This resulted in less wastage for advertisers. Business Day had shown a proportionate increase in advertising as its circulation grew, she said.

But sister publication Sunday Times dropped 5,2% in circulation despite its highly successful Finders Keepers competition during the period.

(243)

Winnie ^{CT}
demands ^{9/18/74}
R700 000 ⁽²⁴³⁾

Staff Reporter

THE Deputy Minister of Arts, Science, Culture and Technology, Mrs Winnie Mandela, yesterday fired a volley of legal actions against four newspapers and a soft porn magazine.

Her lawyer, Mr Pat Poovalingam, yesterday said Mrs Mandela was claiming R200 000 from the Cape Times and the Natal Mercury

Her claim against the Cape Times related to a report published in July under the heading "Winnie hires 'professional' killer — claim". The Natal Mercury published a similar report

Mrs Mandela is claiming R100 000 from the Sowetan and the Daily Dispatch following articles in April in which she was alleged to have misappropriated ANC funds. Hustler magazine, which called her a rude name, is also being sued for R100 000

Irish group raises its stake in Argus

JOHANNESBURG — Ireland's Independent Newspapers has increased its holding in Argus Newspapers to 34,98 percent of its issued share capital

Independent Newspapers' investment in Argus Newspapers now totals R181 million, equivalent to an average of 1 146c a share.

The Irish group bought a 30,1 percent stake last month at 1 141c after Argus Newspapers shares were listed on the JSE

Its increased holding has two major implications (243) ARG 11/8/94

- It reinforces Independent Newspapers' confidence in Argus Newspapers

- It takes its stake to the maximum allowed by the Securities Regulation Panel without a similar offer having to be made to minority shareholders

Independent Newspapers representatives are in South Africa with Irish and British analysts, giving rise to speculation that a second acquisition may be in the offing

Independent ups stake in Argus Newspapers

DUBLIN-BASED Independent Newspapers Plc has increased its stake in Argus Newspapers from 30,1% to 34,98% of the group — the maximum it can hold without being obliged to make an offer to buy out minority shareholders (243) CT 11/8/94

It announced yesterday that it now holds 15,8m shares in Argus Newspapers — an investment of R181m or an average of about R11,46 a share

The Irish group, which owns newspapers in Britain and Australia, bought its controlling shares in Argus Newspapers in July at a price of R11,41 each

A spokesman said yesterday that the additional 4,97% had been bought from several individual shareholders on the open market, at a price Independent Newspapers considered "reasonable"

Argus Newspapers, the largest newspaper group in SA, includes both the Cape Times and The Argus

POLITICS

Kasrils: 'Difficult to ask for money for guns'

Political Staff

IT is difficult for the Minister of Defence to ask for "money for guns" when the cries of starving children can be heard, but so much of South Africa's defence equipment is dated, says Deputy Defence Minister Ronnie Kasrils.

During the debate on the defence budget vote in parliament yesterday, Mr Kasrils said South Africa's training aircraft were more than 40 years old

Since 1989, defence

expenditure had been cut by 44 percent with the number of warplanes dropping from 800 to 450 and staffing from 500 000 to 200 000.

The defence force had to monitor borders amid calls to switch back to the electrified fence between South Africa and Mozambique to prevent the influx of migrant workers and to curb cattle rustling and the huge trade in illegal arms

Mr Kasrils said Armscor was an asset to the military

and it was better to make South Africa's weapons here than buy them abroad.

Minister of Defence Joe Modise said the South African National Defence Force was being "civilianised"

Military intelligence projects would be approved by his department and the ministry of finance.

On the issue of the role of women in the defence force, Mr Modise said a white paper would be presented to parlia-

ment before the end of the session (243) AUG 11/8/94

The process of integration was continuing smoothly, although the Azanian People's Liberation Army had come in late

Mr Modise announced an immediate moratorium on prosecutions of part-time forces who failed to respond to call-ups

The SANDF would not hand over cases to the courts and would also not proceed with prosecutions in military courts," he said.

Boost for South training course

South

By Alexandra Zavis

THE Independent Development Trust will donate R300 000 over two years to the Vukani Journalism Training Programme, run by SOUTH

Vukani offers aspirant journalists from disadvantaged backgrounds a year of intensive training and on-the-job experience

"We are trying to support initiatives which extend the dissemination of development news at community level," explained Mr Jolyon Nuttal, IDT communications director

Linked to this was the need to extend the range of backgrounds from which aspirant journalists were drawn, and to ensure there were professional training programmes to give them the qualifications they would have difficulty achieving through traditional channels, he said

1218 - 1618/94
"What we like about Vukani is that it has a track record, and that it is housed within a non-profit, independent trust. We can therefore be assured that the funding is in good hands," Nuttal said (243)

He added that Vukani complimented another initiative IDT was supporting in the Eastern Cape, the Development News Agency

Community newspapers were aiming to increase the flow of development news by syndicating their services, he said

"If this works, there should be a synergy in that some of the Vukani trainees should be able to find jobs there"



TRAINING AID: From left, Jolyon Nuttal (IDT), Alexandra Zavis (South training officer) Ebrahim Borat (Chair of South Press Services) and seated, Genè Fester (South trainee)

Thabo Mbeki slates media

CLIVE SAWYER

Weekend Argus
Political Correspondent

DEPUTY president Thabo Mbeki has challenged the Press to re-think its role in the new South Africa.

He told the Cape Town Press Club the media had continued its apartheid-era role of being critical of government and looking for crises.

While agreeing with President Mandela that the government of national unity should be given a clean bill of health after its first 100 days, Mr Mbeki said there were two problems (243)

One was within the civil service, where the ministries of defence, safety and security and agriculture were in dire need of restructuring.

The other weakness the government had was communication with ordinary people.

The Press needed to re-examine its role, he said.

He had been accused by a magazine of being lazy.

"Not a single journalist has come and asked me what I do every day, so they can reach a judgement."

As the wartime Press in Britain had decided to fight Nazism, the Press should decide its role in building democracy, Mr Mbeki said.

ARG 20/8/94

Press freedom 'inviolable'

(243) ARG 25/8/94
BOB TILLEY
The Argus Foreign Service

HAMBURG. — Press freedom in the new South Africa is inviolable.

This is the assurance given by Interior Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi in an interview in a German newspaper today.

Censorship and the expulsion of foreign journalists would not occur while he was in office, the Inkatha Freedom party leader told Die Welt correspondent Thomas Knemeyer.

As far as pornography was concerned, he said South African adults could no longer be

told "what they may read or watch".

Chief Buthelezi endorsed old political foe Nelson Mandela as "president of us all, also of those who didn't vote for him".

But he called on Mr Mandela's African National Congress to dissociate itself from its alliance partners, the Communist Party and Cosatu.

The strike in the motor industry showed what a mistake it was for a government party to ally itself with a trade union, Chief Buthelezi said.

He claimed his federalist ideas were now supported by all ANC provincial leaders.

Press freedom 'inviolable'

BOB TILLEY
The Argus Foreign Service

HAMBURG. — Press freedom in the new South Africa is inviolable

This is the assurance given by Interior Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi in an interview in a German newspaper today.

Censorship and the expulsion of foreign journalists would not occur while he was in office, the Inkatha Freedom party leader told Die Welt correspondent Thomas Knemeyer.

As far as pornography was concerned, he said South African adults could no longer be

told "what they may read or watch"

Chief Buthelezi endorsed old political foe Nelson Mandela as "president of us all, also of those who didn't vote for him"

But he called on Mr Mandela's African National Congress to dissociate itself from its alliance partners, the Communist Party and Cosatu

The strike in the motor industry showed what a mistake it was for a government party to ally itself with a trade union, Chief Buthelezi said

He claimed his federalist ideas were now supported by all ANC provincial leaders.

(243) ARG 25/8/94

Survey shows Cape poverty

Staff Reporter

ONLY 37,3% of black households in the Western Cape have access to piped water and the region has the highest percentage of black households with bucket toilets, a study on living standards has revealed

The survey of 9 000 households across the country was conducted by the South Africa Labour and Development Research Unit at the University of Cape Town

It showed that 100% of white households in the Western Cape have internal piped water and flush toilets, but only 67% of black households have flush toilets. Over 25% of black households in the Western Cape have bucket toilets and 6,3% have no toilet facilities at all

Only 53,6% of South African households have access to electricity — 36,5% of black, 86,2% of coloured, 100% of Indian and 99,8% of white households

Nearly 43% of all South Africans aged between 16 and 64 are employed — 35,4% black, 54,6%

Dramatic differences between race groups

coloured, 54,1% Indian and 71,1% white

The average monthly household income for blacks is R1 005, coloureds R2 057, Indians R4 009 and whites R6 394. The average monthly household expenditure is R1 111 for blacks, R1 854 for coloureds, R3 306 for Indians and R4 742 for whites.

Whites spend 20,3% of the household budget on housing, blacks 9,9% and coloureds 13,7%

Over 50% of the black household budget is spent on food, while this figure is 22,1% for whites

Whites spend 3,2% of their budgets on holidays and jewellery, and blacks spend 0,6%. Almost 10% of the white household budget is spent on insurance, but this is only 0,9% of black budgets

The survey showed that whites spend 8,4% on personal expenses including cigarettes, alcohol, entertainment and newspapers, while blacks spend 6,7%, Indians 8,8% and coloureds 9%

The survey showed that 45,6% of blacks aged 14 and older have completed standard six, 64% of coloureds; 81,4% of Indians and 89,7% whites. Figures revealed that 27,3% of blacks aged 16 plus have completed standard eight, 37,2% of coloureds, 63,9% of Indians and 83,4% of whites

But only 11% of blacks aged 18 plus have completed standard ten with 15,5% of coloureds, 40,1% of Indians and 61% of whites

The survey also showed that 16,7% of blacks and 9,3% of coloureds between the ages of 15 and 19 were pregnant, but no whites sampled in this age-group were pregnant

CF29/8/94

242

Van Schoor editor-in-chief of 5 papers

Star 11/9/94

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban — A restructuring of Natal Newspapers was announced yesterday by Argus Newspapers chief executive John Featherstone.

Featherstone reaffirmed Argus Newspapers' commitment to the principle of editorial independence — saying that the group would vigorously continue to uphold

this right

Mostert van Schoor, currently editor-in-chief of The Daily News and Sunday Tribune, has been appointed editor-in-chief of all the group's Natal newspapers — The Daily News, Sunday Tribune, The Natal Mercury, Natal on Saturday and Post Natal

Ed Booth is managing director of Natal Newspapers

Peter Davis, managing edi-

tor of The Daily News, has been appointed editor of The Daily News

No changes have been made to any of the other editorships. (243)

David Wightman is editor of Sunday Tribune, John Patten editor of The Natal Mercury, George Parker editor of Natal on Saturday and Brijlall Ramguthie editor of Post Natal

Reaffirming Argus Newspapers' commitment to editorial independence, Featherstone said "The content of the newspaper, both editorially and in its advertisement columns, is in law and in Argus practice the responsibility of the editor

"We, like every other international publisher of repute, will vigorously uphold that principle."

Argus gives O'Reilly a 9% contribution

243

Aug 2/9/94

□ Irish group's profit increases 35 percent

BRUCE CAMERON
Business Editor

ARGUS Newspapers made a "worthwhile" nine percent contribution to the increased half-year, gross profit of Irish-based international newspaper and media group Independent Newspapers Plc in its first month in the stable

Independent Newspaper's operating profit was up 35 percent to 15,1 million punts (R82,3 million) on an 18 percent increase in turnover of 96,5 million punts (R525,9 million) for the six months ended June 30, 1994.

On the basis of the results, Chairman Tony O'Reilly said it had been decided to increase the interim dividend by 12 percent to three Irish pence (16,35c) a share.

And the results for the group for the full year "are expected to show an improvement over 1993".

Fully diluted earnings a share, excluding exceptional gains on investments and rationalisation costs, were 12,3 percent up at 9,02 Irish pence (49c).

Net profit before tax was up four percent to 15,2 million punts (R82,8 million), but down three percent to 12,5 million punts (R68 million) after a 52 percent increase in the tax bill and payments to minority interests

Dr O'Reilly said Argus Newspapers Limited, which was consolidated from the beginning of June, 1994, yielded a worthwhile contribution of 1,3 million punts (R7 million) or 9,1 percent of operating profit

Argus Newspapers Chief Executive,

and a director of Independent Newspapers Plc, John Featherstone, said the June performance of Argus Newspapers had been "unusually buoyant" and the overall contribution for the second six months could be expected to be proportionally lower.

Independent Newspapers bought a 30,1 percent stake in South African Argus newspapers in June, and increased it to 35 percent in August.

Dr O'Reilly said the company's share in the Independent and Independent on Sunday titles in London, together with its Australian and more recent South African investments, "consolidates our position as an international media and communications group"

The Irish operations were the biggest contributor to operating profit, earning 10,6 million punts (R57,7 million) or 74 percent of the total. The United Kingdom operations contributed 4,8 percent, France 4,6 percent and Australia 7,5 percent.

In Ireland the group increased its advertising market share, recorded circulation increases with the Sunday Independent and The Star — which now has the second highest readership of any Irish daily — and the Independent maintained its position as the biggest-selling quality daily.

According to Reuters the results did not surprise analysts in Ireland and echoed their expectations that Irish and British operations were going well

"At the end of the day I would say they were pretty much in line with what I was expecting," said one

AMPS scare for SA's print media

SOUTH Africa's benchmark annual media and marketing research study, the All Media and Products Survey (AMPS), shows a decline in readership levels for print media across the board

The release of AMPS 1994 this week was not without controversy. The South African Advertising Research Foundation (SAARF), the patron of AMPS, says in a foreword to the report that pre-release scrutiny led to considerable unease, particularly among leading newspaper publishers. This prompted the placing of an embargo on the results pending further analyses

"Two eminent statisticians, retained for this purpose, were unable to discover any irregularities in terms of sampling, fieldwork or methodology and came to the conclusion that the data reflect the realities of the marketplace," says the SAARF

Unease

The figures explain the unease in the midst of the print media owners. Across the board, readers per copy declined from 4,99 per issue to 4,11. At the same time, television viewership increased by a significant margin

All print media categories showed declining readership figures. English/Afrikaans Daily Newspapers (minus 7,5 percent), English Black Dailies (minus 10,9 percent), English/Afrikaans Weeklies (minus 10 percent), English Black Weeklies (minus 27,7 percent), Black Weeklies (minus 7,5 percent), English Magazines (minus 7,5 percent), Afrikaans Magazines (minus 8,2 percent) and Black Magazines (minus 8,1 percent)

Star 3/19/94
NEWSPAPER executives find strange anomalies as readers disappear.
LOUIS DE VILLIERS reports.

The Star general manager Graeme King finds strange anomalies in the figures "I find it inexplicable that a newspaper such as City Press, which has surged in circulation, could be found to have actually lost readers. I am at a loss to understand it," says King

According to ABC figures, City Press increased its circulation from 228 288 during the period January to June 1993 by 13 percent to 263 917 during the same period this year. Yet, according to AMPS, City Press's black readership fell by more than 200 000 from 1,74 million last year to 1,52 million this year (see table).

"The City Press ABC figures reflect average circulation. If you look at the 1994 six-month period, there were two very high peaks, which boosted the average circulation. The newspaper also ran competitions to boost circulation — who is to say that some readers did not buy 10 to enhance their prospects of winning?" counters Moira Wegner, who is a director at Market Research Africa IBIS Media Services, which undertook the research on behalf of SAARF

On the whole, English language newspapers tended to lose black and Afrikaans-speaking readers. Wegner ascribes this to possible political polarisation in the lead-up to the election. An-

Newspaper readership comparison

	1993	1994	1993	1994
	Whites, Coloureds & Indians		Black	Black
Population	6 687 000	6 739 000	17 269 000	17 800 000
Argus	449 000	418 000	52 000	43 000
Business Day	65 000	68 000	32 000	10 000
Cape Times	244 000	265 000	40 000	38 000
Citizen	283 000	232 000	458 000	352 000
DFA	27 000	31 000	17 000	9 000
Natal Mercury	253 000	251 000	100 000	78 000
Pretoria News	77 000	76 000	33 000	26 000
Sowetan	27 000	38 000	1 528 000	1 422 000
Star	397 000	342 000	463 000	367 000
Beeld	426 000	368 000	22 000	12 000
Burger	394 000	402 000	1 000	15 000
Cape Times (S)	116 000	168 000	15 000	24 000
Citizen (S)	70 000	72 000	291 000	219 000
Natal on Sat	—	324 000	—	9 000
Pta News (S)	40 000	30 000	17 000	6 000
Weekend Star	181 000	174 000	278 000	193 000
Sunday Times	1 738 000	1 562 000	962 000	840 000
Sunday Tribune	517 000	469 000	98 000	54 000
Weekend Argus	406 000	375 000	16 000	19 000
Beeld (S)	188 000	174 000	19 000	20 000
Burger Naweek	256 000	341 000	1 000	5 000
Rapport	1 666 000	1 632 000	48 000	37 000
City Press	17 000	13 000	1 735 000	1 523 000
Illanga (M)	1 000	1 000	868 000	803 000
Illanga (T)	1 000	—	766 000	731 000
Post Natal	256 000	234 000	9 000	7 000

Source: AMPS '94

other factor which could have contributed to low black readership figures was the many public holidays during this period

Nasionale Tydskrifte chief executive Salie de Swardt argues that it would be wrong to interpret the figure as an abrupt swing away from print to electronic media. "It is important to take the period during which fieldwork was done into account. Undoubtedly the violence and unrest had a large impact on the pass-on factor, especially for magazines," says De Swardt

"The only fact about AMPS which is indisputable is that the people who criticise the data today will be making full use of it tomorrow," says Saatchi & Saatchi Klerck & Barrett media director Gordon Muller

"Warts and all, it's still the best option we've got. The fuss has come from print media

owners who now have to cope with a devalued currency in an increasingly competitive market. While one understands and sympathises with the problem, it does highlight the over-reliance on quantitative research in the selection process

"Print media is losing to television not just on the basis of viewership figures but because they are failing to communicate the qualitative contribution of their medium. No hype, no hope"

The extent to which the atypical period before the election influenced readership patterns as revealed by AMPS will become evident only next year. Wegner, though, argues that these results are not atypical. "The next six years in South Africa will be atypical," she argues. In this period, though, the readership erosion is bound to put downward pressure on print media

Mbeki: (243)

CT5/9/94

Free

press

ensured

JOHANNESBURG. — The constitution ensures freedom of the press and the government had no power to gag the media "in general terms", Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said last night.

Mr Mbeki was responding on CCV-TV's Newslime programme to a question on how transparency in government could be reconciled with attempts by Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise to gag the Weekly Mail and attacks on Sunday Times editor Mr Ken Owen by PWV Premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale

He said "Certainly, the view of the government is by no means to gag the press or even direct the press as to what it should say"

The government may occasionally seek interdicts against the press on certain matters, Mr Mbeki said

On TV1's Agenda programme later last night, Mr Sexwale, in response to comments that he was popular with the press in the past, denied this was so

"I was not popular with the press in the past. The press was reflecting a popularity among certain sections of the population. So I have not been a friend of the press. I have been a defender of the press in so far as that aspect of the constitution that says we should have a free press in this country"

The premier said subsequently he had come to realise there had been "a bit of irresponsible reporting"

Last week, Mr Sexwale slammed the press and Mr Owen for suggesting the PWV government preferred employing ANC members

On Agenda, Mr Sexwale said "We want lampooning. Let's be lampooned, let's be cartooned, but let's be serious. We are rebuilding a nation here, and we can't have news disinforming the public about things the government is doing, and news seen to be undermining the efforts of government"

People had laid down their lives to have a free press defended in the interim constitution, he said, adding that there was another freedom citizens were not using properly — freedom of speech — Sapa

'Media have to change'

CT 6/9/94

THE media had to accept they were "by and large representative of the old establishment" and that they had to change, the national executive committee of the ANC Youth League said after meeting in Johannesburg at the weekend

243

The comments are the latest in a series of ANC broadsides at the media since the new government

came into power

The committee was briefed by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, who was the first major ANC leader to call upon the media to define for themselves a new role in a democracy

He has prepared a discussion document on the media to be tabled at the ANC's national conference in December

The youth league committee

said one of the major challenges facing it was "the hysteria generated by the media in response to some comments of ANC leaders"

But it reiterated the commitment of the ANCYL to press freedom

"We wish to reject as mischievous the insinuation that ANC leaders have begun to be paranoid about criticism" — Sapa

Three Jewish newspapers to merge

Star 6/9/94

Publishing group Publico says The Herald Times, SA's major Jewish newspaper, has been merged with the Johannesburg Jewish Voice and the Zionist Record to create

the SA Jewish Times MD Reuben Shapiro says it will be the most powerful Jewish newspaper ever seen in South Africa. (243)

"It combines the read-

ership, editorial and advertising expertise of three newspapers and effectively represents well over 100 years of Jewish newspaper publishing in South Africa."

Mandela's VOW On press freedom

243
CT7|9|94

THE media needed to undergo a transition from the sensation of conflict to that of reconstruction and development, President Nelson Mandela said in Cape Town yesterday

At the same time, the government needed to take urgent steps to create conditions for the emergence of more commercial and community-orientated voices, particularly among disadvantaged communities, he said in an address to the Conference of Editors

"You will agree with me that it is crucial for media establishments to act and be seen to be taking the initiative in dealing with these matters, be it in the form of unbundling, training, deployment of personnel or any other relevant actions"

Mr Mandela promised that the ANC would ensure the final constitution contained measures that enshrined freedom of information

"The ANC will ensure that, in the draft-

'Criticism necessary'

ing of the new constitution and Bill of Rights, the qualifications which are inconsistent with international democratic norms are done away with"

Conceding that relations between the government and sections of the media were at a "relatively" low ebb, Mr Mandela called for a new partnership between the two

"Such a partnership should not be premised on the subservience of one to the other or on uncritical praise-singing

"Rather, like any genuine partnership, it will have its stormy moments, in the

ANC 'doesn't like criticism'

THE ANC's most recent attacks on the press and its threats that the industry should be restructured should not be taken lightly, the National Party said yesterday.

It seemed the ANC's support for press freedom was limited to media criticism of the ANC's opponents, the NP said in a statement

The NP did not think the ANC would easily attempt to formally restrict press freedom. The greater danger was informal pressure on and intimidation of the press — Sapa

knowledge that democracy would be the ultimate beneficiary. We know too well from our past experiences that robust and honest exchange of opinions and criticism are necessary for any society to be truly democratic and for any government to stay on course"

But there were several issues that impacted on freedom of expression

● The ownership structure of the media, which is not only concentrated in a few hands but reflects the patterns of racial exclusion characteristic of the old era.

● The demographic composition of management, editorial executives and senior journalists which mirrors the same pattern, and

● Broader socio-economic issues such as illiteracy, poverty, lack of media skills, language constraints and so on, all of which limit the ability of the majority to exercise their freedom of expression

Media challenged to face change from conflict to reconstruction

CHRIS WHITFIELD
Political Staff

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela has challenged the media to come to terms with change, warning of perceptions that could lead to an "unproductive dog-fight".

He told the Conference of Editors yesterday that the media faced a challenge to "undergo what some would characterise as a transition from the sensation of conflict to that of reconstruction and development".

He listed three "realities" that impacted on the freedom of expression in South Africa, which had a direct bearing on whether the country's media could "truly reflect the diverse views of society as a whole".

● The ownership of South Africa's media, which was "not only concentrated in a few hands, but reflects the patterns of racial exclusion

□ Mandela warns of 'unproductive dog-fight'

characteristic of the apartheid era".

● The "demographic composition of management, editorial executives and senior journalists, which mirrors the same pattern".

● Broader socio-economic issues such as illiteracy, poverty, lack of media skills and language constraints, all of which "limited the ability of the majority to exercise their freedom of expression".

It was crucial that media establishments take the initiative in dealing with these matters, "be it in the form of unbundling, training, deployment of personnel or any other relevant actions".

Mr Mandela — entering the growing debate on the media's role for the first time — said that "if reported statements by public officials and related

media comments are anything to go by, relations between government and sections of the media can be said to be at a relatively low ebb".

He questioned whether this was entirely unhealthy, but added "What are the perceptions feeding what could develop into an unproductive dog-fight".

He added that sceptics were to be found "within society in general, and in the media in particular".

"This is to underscore a truism that the media is not an institution apart, divorced from society and deriving its ideas from some mysterious force".

It was in the nature of journalism "that you should be searching, critical and even sceptical".

"At the same time, you also

(243)
AR 4 7/9/94

have to exercise the responsibility of accurately reflecting the hopes and fears, aspirations and apprehensions, optimism and pessimism as they exist within society".

This was perhaps the greatest challenge facing the South African media.

"In the abnormality of apartheid, it was much easier to strive simply to be normal and defend that right.

"In the new situation of relative normalcy, the challenge is to undergo what some would characterise as a transition from the sensation of conflict to that of reconstruction and development".

Mr Mandela emphasised, however, that the African National Congress would ensure that the new constitution and

Bill of Rights would do away with qualifications on the freedom of information that were inconsistent with international democratic norms.

"In the meantime, the government, backed by civil society, should urgently elaborate the principle of access to information in the hands of the state, in the form of legislation".

The government was also faced with the challenge of putting into place an information service "in tune with the realities of our times".

A partnership between the government and the media should develop that was based on the pursuit of common interests, and not "the subservience of one to the other, or on uncritical praise-singing".

It should have its stormy moments in the knowledge that democracy would be the ultimate beneficiary.

JUST more than 100 days ago the world marvelled at an achievement of epic proportions by a nation almost written off as one of civil warriors and, therefore, a nation of failures. Our society as a whole managed the elections period and the inauguration in a manner that confounded even the worst of sceptics.

But it was not uncommon then, as now, to find people in broader society and in the media who saw in that achievement a misleading sense of tranquility, a proverbial quiet before the storm. But the storm didn't come.

So the advent of this storm was postponed, in the minds of the pessimists, to the end of the 100 days of the Government of National Unity — the "honeymoon period", as some chose to call it. Yet the storm didn't come.

We are convinced — as government and as the ANC in particular — that such a storm will not come.

South Africa should not again experience conflict based on racial, religious and ethnic differences. Rather, these attributes should form the basis of our richness, our strength and our unique contribution to world culture.

The formation of the Government of National Unity — premised on the interim constitution and Charter of Fundamental Rights — has removed the most immediate cause of the social antagonisms that rent our nation apart.

Reinforced by the goodwill manifest among all sectors of our population, this has underpinned the almost miraculously peaceful transition that our country has experienced.

However, this is only the beginning of a long and hard journey to social equity.

Success in the implementation of reconstruction and development is the sure guarantee for lasting peace and stability.

This realisation has focused the minds of all parties, within and outside the cabinet, towards the achievement of the objectives of the RDP.

Differences do remain among all these diverse groups. They will — and should — play themselves out in the open. This is healthy, in the context of our young and vibrant democracy.

To come back to the theme of pessimism, I have deliberately said that sceptics are to be found within society in general and in the media in particular.

This is to underscore a truism that the media are not an institution apart, divorced from society and deriving their ideas from some mysterious force.

If there are parties and individuals in government and in society who elect to make their worth on a conjured threat of disaster, so are such individuals also to be found in the media.

If there are business people who hesitate to invest because they are sceptical about our ability to manage political and economic transformation, so are such individuals also to be found in the media.

The role of the media



By **NELSON
MANDELA**

■ Like so many other aspects of society in the New South Africa, the role of the media is also undergoing important changes. This week, in an address to the South African Conference of Editors, President Nelson Mandela spelled out his views on the role of newspapers.

ARL 10/9/94

(243)

The opposite is also perfectly true. And this is entirely natural!

Yet we should continually challenge the kind of pessimism which can be self-serving.

That is, a state of mind that hopes for and unwittingly encourages a social disaster, an approach to any developments from the point of view of confirming a pessimistic prognosis.

For the media everywhere, this has always been a difficult balancing act over the centuries. For it is in the nature of your trade, and it is absolutely crucial, that you should be searching, critical and even sceptical.

At the same time, you also have to exercise the responsibility of accurately reflecting hopes and fears, aspirations and apprehensions, optimism and pessimism as they exist within society.

Perhaps this is the greatest new challenge facing South Africa's media. In the abnormality of apartheid, it was much easier to strive simply to be normal and defend that right.

In the new situation of relative normalcy, the challenge is to undergo what some would characterise as a transition from the sensation of conflict to that of reconstruction and development.

To cite an example. One was quite surprised that only a few of the media establishments noted, at all, the advent of the date of September 1 on which the primary school feeding scheme was due to start.

Reports that we have are that 388 schools had by this date already started with the scheme, affecting more than 100 000 children. Others were due to start phasing in the programme, ultimately to cover about four million children.

But are these reports accurate? What are the positive experiences, weaknesses and failures on the ground?

By investigating and objectively reporting on such issues, the media can play a crucial role in the building of a new society.

An area that has not received sufficient attention thus far is the deepening and expansion of media freedoms.

Quite correctly, during the multi-party negotiations, the media drew attention to the weaknesses in the formulation of "freedom of information".

The ANC will ensure that, in the drafting of the new constitution and Bill of Rights, the qualifications which are inconsistent with international democratic norms are done away with.

In the meantime, the government backed by civil society, will urgently elaborate the principle of access to information in the hands of the state, in the form of legislation. In doing so, we should stretch to their limits the provisions in the interim constitution.

There are a few other realities which impact on freedom of expression. In brief, these include:

■ Firstly, the ownership structure of South Africa's media is not only concentrated in a few hands, but reflects the patterns of racial exclusion characteristic of the old era.

■ Secondly, the demographic composition of management, editorial executives and senior journalists mirrors the same pattern.

■ Thirdly, broader socio-economic issues such as illiteracy, poverty, lack of media skills, language constraints and so on all limit the ability of the majority to exercise their freedom of expression.

Needless to say, all these factors do have a direct bearing on whether the South African media, as presently structured, can truly reflect the diverse views of society as a whole!

You will agree with me that it is crucial for media establishments to act and be seen to be taking the initiative in dealing with these matters: be it in the form of unbundling, training, deployment of personnel or any other relevant actions.

On the other hand, the government needs to take urgent steps to create conditions for the emergence of more commercial and community voices, particularly among disadvantaged communities.

Within the electronic media, much progress is being made by the Independent Broadcasting Authority — although the pace might not be to the satisfaction of everyone.

Government is also faced with the urgent challenge of putting in place a Government Information Service in tune with the realities of our times. This entails the restructuring of bodies which, in the past, served the abominable security-management strategies of the apartheid state.

The aim is to have an accessible, user-friendly Government Information Service designed with the participation of the media and the communities it is meant to serve in mind. Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, who has been charged with this task, has already started initiatives in this direction.

There is, therefore, a partnership that should develop in earnest between democratic government and the media, in pursuit of common interests. Such a partnership should not be premised on the subservience of one to the other, or on uncritical praise-singing.

Rather, like any genuine partnership, it will have its stormy moments, in the knowledge that democracy would be the ultimate beneficiary. We know too well from our past experiences that robust and honest exchange of opinions and criticism are necessary for any society to be truly democratic and for any government to stay on course.

Printing and admin moving to Jo'burg

Cutbacks at Pretoria News

Star 13/9/94

■ STAFF REPORTER

The Pretoria News, an Argus-owned daily newspaper, yesterday announced a rationalisation programme involving the retrenchment of some of its staff.

The newspaper's printing press and the "greater part of its financial administration" will be moved to Johannesburg, editor Deon du Plessis said.

This was in line with the international trend of merging expensive equipment — which meant The Pretoria News would now be printed by The Newspaper Printing Company (TNPC) in The Star building in Johannesburg rather than in Pretoria.

TNPC also prints The Star, the Sowetan, the Sunday Times and Business Day.

The Pretoria News's own press will be moved, probably to TNPC's Johannesburg premises,

Du Plessis said

Pages prepared in Pretoria will be electronically transmitted to TNPC by way of The Pretoria News's new newspaper pagination technology.

Du Plessis could not say how many staff members would be affected by the plan because retrenchments had yet to be negotiated with the unions.

Expanding

248

The company would do all it could to assist those employees whose jobs would be affected by the moves.

Du Plessis said the moves entailed The Pretoria News becoming a 24-hour newspaper.

The paper would provide a new morning edition in Pretoria to compete with the five dailies from Johannesburg, while continuing to provide an afternoon edition.

The education edition would

be tagged on to the morning edition.

"We will be providing readers with our brand of capital city news in the mornings and our last edition of the day will be the only newspaper in Pretoria providing coverage of events here and elsewhere between midnight and mid-morning."

"In providing what will be, in a real sense, a 24-hour newspaper we will be expanding our service to our market as well as keeping Pretoria people abreast of local, national and international events over a longer time-frame," Du Plessis said.

The Pretoria News general manager Aiden Robertson said the company's commercial printing contracts would all be honoured.

Aspects of the paper's financial administration will also in future be done in Johannesburg.

Argus move defended

(243) CT 15/9/94

JOHANNESBURG — Changes at the Pretoria News had nothing to do with violating job creation programmes or breaching the spirit of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, Argus Newspapers chief executive Mr John Featherstone said yesterday

He was reacting to a statement on Tuesday by the SA Union of Journalists that Argus Newspapers boss Mr Tony O'Reilly had breached the spirit of the RDP by trying to retrench staff

at the Pretoria News

The SAUJ also accused Mr O'Reilly of violating the spirit of the government's job creation programme

Mr Featherstone said the company was expanding the Pretoria News, not closing it "We are restructuring and repositioning the Pretoria News Market forces — and nothing else — have made us act now Had we not acted, we risked losing all the jobs and the Pretoria News as a title." — Sapa

NEWS

Efforts to restructure Pretoria News defended

BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

Developments at the Pretoria News should be seen as restructuring and repositioning, not mere retrenchment, says Argus Newspapers chief executive John Featherstone.

Denying claims by the South African Union of Journalists that attempts to retrench editorial and other workers were contrary to the spirit of the Government of National Unity's RDP and job-creation programme, he said the company was expanding The Pretoria News, not closing it.

He added: "We do not resort to retrenchment as a first response. Market forces — and nothing else — have made us act now. Had we not acted, we risked losing all the jobs and

the Pretoria News as a title"

The restructured Pretoria News would maintain its vibrant role and be able to increase its service to readers.

"In tough trading conditions Argus Newspapers is not closing dailies, we are expanding them. Moving the Pretoria News to the morning slot, while still covering the afternoon market, increases the franchise it holds.

"To prepare the paper for a successful future we have to have appropriately priced printing resources. That means using Argus Newspapers' Johannesburg plant and closing an expensive, exclusive printing facility in Pretoria. In a newspaper that is losing money, this also means the cost of producing a good newspaper must be reduced in all areas," Featherstone said.

(243)

Censorship pledge as Mbeki urges new newspaper launches

CLIVE SAWYER

Political Correspondent

DEPUTY president Thabo Mbeki says the government has no plans to censor or intervene in the running of the established Press

But the government was looking at ways to boost access to media, perhaps by granting subsidies.

There was concern about the white male domination of newspaper ownership and operation, Mr Mbeki said during an exchange of views between politicians and journalists at a Cape Town Press Club lunch.

Repeating previous appeals to the

media to reconsider its role in the new dispensation, Mr Mbeki said it was in the interest of the Press and its freedom to help build democracy.

This meant a partnership based on common nationalism but not "cosy collusion".

It was possible that the media could critically re-examine itself and find nothing wrong. But it was essential for it to go through the process.

Financial Mail editor Nigel Bruce said the media in South Africa were diverse, serving differing constituents. Editors did not collude with each other except in their desire for Press freedom.

Anyone dissatisfied with the media should start their own newspaper, which was relatively easy and cheap because of advanced technology.

Mr Bruce said communication between government and media was the worst it had been in 30 years.

It was impossible for newspapers to be in partnership with the government because the Press's role was to be a loyal opposition, he said.

Mr Mbeki's appeals were similar to those of other African leaders who wanted a "new world media order".

Journalist Brendon Boyle said the quality of communication with the

new government was far better than with the old.

There was a case for extending access for disadvantaged communities to the media as part of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

Democratic Party media spokeswoman Dene Smuts said partnership between the government and the Press could descend into advocacy.

There had been a sharp change in the style of reporting after the election, with the Press being critical about issues like "fat cat salaries".

In the negotiation phase, some journalists had reported according to the

"Cyril smiled at me" school of journalism, she said.

The Reconstruction and Development Programme could not be a hollywood.

ANC MP Carl Niehaus said the Press produced sensationalism rather than proper investigative journalism.

Democratic Party acting leader Tony Leon said the media had been "supine" in the days after the election.

Mr Bruce said the Press could not change the fact most black people did not have enough education or enough money.

Newspapers had to make a profit that they could pay their staff.

243 ARTG 20/9/94

'Government committed to free Press'

Political Staff

(243) ARG 30/9/94

THE cabinet's decision to censure Home Affairs Minister and Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi for the fracas in an SABC studio is evidence of the government's commitment to media freedom, says President Mandela.

He and deputy president De Klerk were given the Johannesburg Press Club's newsmakers of the year award last night.

In a speech read on his behalf by Forestry and Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal, Mr Mandela warned that activity such as the taking of hostages and illegal roadblocks were an abuse of political rights.

"This has to be dealt with firmly so as to ensure that an exercise of rights does not degenerate into lawlessness."

He said legislation to ensure the "freedom of information was among measures the government considered fundamental to South African society."

In an apparent hint that the government may be considering subsidising small community newspapers, Mr Mandela said there was a need to create conditions for the emergence of community voices.

Turning to the Buthelezi incident, he added in an apparent explanation of the Cabinet decision: "While we are committed to national reconciliation, this can never be allowed to take precedence over the basic principles without which democracy would be a hollow shell."

Mr De Klerk said the cabinet's censure of Chief Buthelezi showed its commitment to a free press.

He said that the country desperately needed a free and objective press now as it travelled through years of "fragile" transition.

Argus agrees to consult Mwasa

By Joe Mdhlela
Political Reporter

ARGUS Newspapers agreed during five hours of talks in Johannesburg yesterday with the Media Workers' Association of South Africa to consult the union before going ahead with rationalisation plans

Mwasa, led by its president Mrs Sandra Nagfaal, said it was unhappy that the company had continued with restructuring without in-

volving the union

After the meeting, the Argus delegation, led by chief executive Mr John Featherstone, agreed it would "consult as fully as possible on all proposed changes with Argus branches nationally"

Earlier, Mwasa expressed disgust at the company's "unilateral" restructuring, saying it had only been informed after the company had accomplished its objectives (243)

"Mwasa saw the move by the company to unilaterally restructure in a serious light We

5/10/94
obviously do not take delight in rubber-stamping management's decisions," Nagfaal said

She said the union would seek a meeting with Minister of Labour Tito Mboweni and Minister without portfolio Jay Naidoo with a view to showing that restructuring and retrenchments were inconsistent with the national spirit of reconstruction

Argus spokesman Mr Roger Wellsted said "The object of Featherstone's meeting with the union is to discuss future plans and to deal with a list of grievances the union currently has"

Argus to consult union on revamp

Star 5/10/90

Argus Newspapers and the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa) yesterday reached an agreement that the company would, where necessary, consult the union regarding restructuring and retrenchments. (243)

The agreement was reached at a meeting which followed Mwasa's objection to "unilateral" restructuring of Argus Newspapers

Joe Mdhlela, deputy chairman of Mwasa's southern Transvaal region, said the union had expressed concern that the restructuring would lead to retrenchments which would not be in keeping with the aims and objectives of the Reconstruction and De-

velopment Programme.

He said Mwasa had asked Argus management rather to retrain and place employees elsewhere within the company instead of retrenching them

Argus management, Mdhlela said, accepted that branches should be directly involved in negotiations regarding restructuring

Graeme King, general manager of The Star, described the meeting between the parties as positive

However, he said management could not give a commitment that it would not retrench people. "We can never say that because we might have to do so if necessary." — Labour Correspondent.



Dramatic takeover: Removing M-Net shares would instantly boost TML's share price as the M-Net connection distorts the company's financial image

PHOTOGRAPH THEMBA HADEBE

Argus shadow steps onward to Omni-potence

(243)

WM(BM)14-20/10/94



Omni Media's increased shareholding in TML places a question mark over the future of the media empire, reports **Jacques Magliolo**

NOW that it has effectively taken over Times Media Limited, Omni Media — the reincarnation of Argus Holdings — plans to delist, restructure and then relist TML

Omni Media's offer to TML minority shareholders last week was successful. Omni Media now controls 92 percent of TML, which places a question mark over the future of TML.

It is reliably learnt that this is not the end of Omni's plans. Market experts believe that Omni's next step will be to force TML minority shareholders to sell the remaining eight percent shares to them. Once the court procedure has been completed and Omni obtains complete ownership of TML, it will immediately delist the company.

Why would Omni undertake such a venture?

Market consensus is Omni wants to remove the R100-million now sitting in the books of TML and secondly, to transfer TML's M-Net shares to itself. This would make it the single largest M-Net shareholder, with a controlling interest of 36.1 percent — surpassing Nationale Pers' 28 percent stake in M-Net.

The last step in the takeover would be to relist TML and sell a portion of the company to the public. It is important that Omni retains a controlling interest in a newspaper group if they are to retain their M-Net stake.

According to the original rules of the consortium which set up M-Net in 1985, a major investment in a daily newspaper is necessary for an investor to hold a significant stake in M-Net.

The arrangement was designed to

offset the loss of advertising revenue from daily newspapers to the electronic media as television took off in South Africa.

Omni could thus sell a maximum 49 percent stake in TML.

There is no doubt that the takeover was well prepared and well executed and that it has taken years in planning.

The steps taken to strip vast quantities of cash and M-Net shares from TML could even be seen as a "saviour for TML and its publications", says a Printing and Publishing sector analyst.

"There are a host of other advantages for Omni in conducting the takeover in such a manner. In removing M-Net shares it would instantly boost TML's share price as the M-Net connection distorts the company's financial image," he adds.

M-Net's March financial results displayed an earnings per share of 1.4 cents, which — on a share price of 1 400 cents — translates into a p e ratio of 1 000 times.

If M-Net continued to produce such profits at these share prices, it would take an investor 1 000 years to recoup his investment if measured in earnings.

Another analyst says "At present TML's p e ratio is eight times, which is marginal at the start of an economic upturn." She believes that removing M-Net from TML's books would result in the company's share price climbing by "at least 60 percent." So its p e ratio would climb to about 12 times.

This means that Omni would buy the remaining eight percent for about

R72-million (at a share price of 4 050 cents), but after restructuring, Omni would obtain over R700-million from selling a 49 percent stake in TML at the increased price.

While it may seem contradictory to conduct a takeover to obtain a company which negatively distorts financial profiles, M-Net remains an attractive investment with strong long-term upward potential.

The reason lies in M-Net's massive cash inflows from monthly subscriptions.

With a base of nearly a million subscribers, M-Net receives over R70-million in cash every month.

Market experts believe that the company's unacceptable p e ratio will adjust once it absorbs capital expenditure encountered in expanding to overseas markets.

Analysis of the extent to which M-Net will affect Omni's future results is difficult, given incomparable results within Omni itself — it sold a 35 percent stake in Argus Newspapers to Independent Newspapers and the remaining shares to Omni minority shareholders and to the public — and the restructuring within M-Net in 1993.

M-Net/Multichoice shares are controlled through M-Net Holdings, which is a private company and is therefore not obliged to divulge information.

In addition, M-Net's 1993 deal to split the subscriber management services and communications divisions from its television media operations makes it difficult to analyse the importance of the company in financial terms.

It is unclear what, if anything, Omni intends to do with *Business Day*, *Financial Mail* and the lucrative *Sunday Times*.

Sappi is wearing thin, say analysts

WM(BM)14-20/10/94
Jacques Magliolo

DESPITE media hype, market reaction this week was not favourable to paper giant Sappi's acquisition of a controlling interest in United States-based paper company SD Warren for \$1.6-billion. The share price dropped from a high of 6 000 cents on Tuesday to 5 700 cents the next day.

Both stockbroking and institutional analysts are concerned that Sappi may have bitten off more than it can chew. "The deal comes too close after extensive investment in European ventures," says a Cape Town-based institutional analyst.

Another called Sappi executive chairman Eugene van As "power hungry and guilty of empire-building." Reaction from the stockbroking fraternity was similar, with one dealer saying "Van As should remember that his British and German companies are not yet profitable enough to venture into another unfamiliar territory."

Why all the negative reaction? After all, this is the largest investment made by a South African company in the US. The acquisition means that Sappi will control 70 percent of SD Warren and thereby become the world's largest producer of coated wood-free papers.

Since 1990 the company has acquired five British paper mills for R510-million and German paper-milling company Hannover Papier Ag for nearly R1-billion. Sappi has set up two wholly-owned sales companies, based in Brussels and Hong Kong.

Companies in these countries have not yet produced expected profits. In Sappi's financial year to end-February 1994, Hannover had shown a turnover decline of two percent and Sappi Europe Ltd suffered from the continued effect of recessions in Europe and the United Kingdom, causing line-item prices to decline by four to eight percent.

Analysts indicate that these acquisitions "needed to be assimilated into the Sappi fold before other investments can even be contemplated." While gearing was a respectable 41 percent at its financial year end, the US venture pushes this to a high of 125 percent.

In addition to the cry of "invest in South Africa — we need it", there are two main points of opposition to Sappi's investment in the US. Firstly, it is questionable whether Sappi has forecast the extent of the infant commodity cycle, secondly, at present prices future forecasts offer investors marginal capital gains.

Market experts say that, if the cycle lasts until 1997/1998, Sappi's earnings per share would equal about 800 cents, which — on a p e ratio of 10 times — means that the

CURRENT AFFAIRS

FM 14/10/94

will be impossible to produce an upmarket product on a severely reduced budget. This may justify closing it. *The Argus* could then be published as both a morning and afternoon newspaper similar to *The Star* in Johannesburg.

It is understood that the restructuring includes the imminent scrapping of the Saturday edition of the *Cape Times*. This will give *The Weekend Argus* more room to fight the *Sunday Times* which has made significant gains in Cape Town with its Metro edition.

The daily version of *The Argus* will be repositioned next month to focus on the Cape metropole's three distinct markets, the northern and southern areas and the Cape Flats. The price is expected to increase from R1 to R1,30 and that of the *Cape Times* from R1 to R1,20. (243)

The final repositioning of the *Cape Times* is expected to be completed during the first quarter of next year and could include a price increase to between R1,50 and R2. Circulation is expected to drop about 20% from around 60 000.

Featherstone says the unions have been consulted about proposed changes. Earlier this month Argus Newspapers agreed, after talks with the Media Workers' Association (Mwasa), to consult the union before rationalising the company. The meeting followed a Mwasa protest over what it described as a unilateral decision to restructure the *Pretoria News*, which resulted in a 75% cut in staff. But Mwasa president Sandra Nagfaal says the union is unaware of plans to restructure the Cape Town newspapers. She expects to meet company executives next week.

The restructuring plans so far have been a blow to those who believed O'Reilly's investment in SA would pump more resources into the ailing newspaper sector.

But Featherstone rejects as "simply untrue" the assumption that O'Reilly's main concern is to squeeze Argus Newspapers for a better return than the company has managed in recent years.

He adds that investments by O'Reilly elsewhere in the world have created better newspapers and the company has no doubt the same will happen in SA. ■

NEWSPAPERS

Leaner and hungrier

FM 14/10/94

Argus Newspapers is planning to restructure Cape Town's two English language daily newspapers, *The Argus* and the *Cape Times*, in a move that could result in job losses.

The company bought the *Cape Times* from Times Media Ltd earlier this year as part of a deal which saw Irish media baron Tony O'Reilly take control of Argus Newspapers from JCI. (243)

It is understood that the company wants to eventually reposition the *Cape Times* as an upmarket morning newspaper. The process is believed to include cutting editorial costs by up to 40%.

However, Argus Newspapers CE John Featherstone denies speculation that proposed changes could mean scrapping 15-20 of about 60 editorial posts on the newspaper. He also rejects the view that the repositioning is a cynical move to kill the newspaper. "We are growing the market for the *Cape Times* in which we have considerable confidence, having paid good money for it. To suggest that it is a cynical move to kill it is ridiculous."

But some *Cape Times* staffers believe it

Guarded access to information

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The establishment of a "genuine democracy" had to include giving the public access to information about what the government was doing, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said last night.

Interviewed on the SABC's Agenda programme about a task force set up to look into the implementation of a Freedom of Information Act, Mr Mbeki conceded there would have to be "exceptions" to the rule of openness. (243)

"If, for example, the minister of finance is going to announce rates of taxation the following day, the information would have to be kept secret until it is announced," he said.

ET 19/10/94
"The South African media needs to look at itself and define a new role for itself without any intervention from the government or anyone else," he said.

Task force for Information Act

CT 19/10/94
Political Staff

THE government yesterday announced the creation of a task force to draw up a Freedom of Information Act which would include unique provisions affecting public and private companies.

The task force would investigate the inclusion of provisions that would go beyond existing constitutional provisions which require individuals to show that the information is required to protect a right.

But task force members said the proposed legislation, due to be presented early next year, would also respect the right to privacy.

The task force would be chaired by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's legal adviser Ms Mojanku Gumbi. Other members are legal academics Mandla Mchunu and Ettiene Mureinik, advocates Vincent Maleka and Empie van Schoor and members of the SA Communication Services Dirk Venter and Adriaan Nortje.

Ms Gumbi said the proposed act was part of an effort to achieve an open democracy. (243)

Task force set to consult on Freedom of Information Act

Political Correspondent

A TASK force of six has been set up to consult interest groups on a Freedom of Information Act.

Half of the members of the task force are from outside the civil service and will be paid from R250 to R350 an hour for what is officially expected to be about a 10-hour week.

The act will allow people access to information held by government bodies, and other public bodies exercising power

Citizens' right to privacy will be guaranteed.

The task force was appointed by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and its chairman is Mojanku Gumbi, Mr Mbeki's legal adviser.

Its members are Natal University professor Mandla Mchunu, Witwaters-

rand university professor Etienne Mureinik, state law drafter Empe van Schoor and Communication Services officers Dirk Venter and Adriaan Nortje.

A spokesman for Mr Mbeki's office said obstacles to a "participatory and accountable" democracy included illiteracy and an authoritarian tradition that had instilled a deferential and fearful attitude towards government.

It had also caused a "secretive and unresponsive" culture in the civil service.

Ms Gumbi said the group had yet to decide on how the legislation would affect businesses like banks.

Interest groups to be consulted included business, the media, unions, government ministries, the church and literacy groups.

(243) ARG 19/10/94

Debate over companies' disclosure

Task force to draft laws on information

B/Day 19/10/94

CAPE TOWN — Government yesterday created a task force to draw up a Freedom of Information Act which members said would include unique provisions affecting public and private companies. (243)

They indicated the task force would investigate provisions that would go beyond existing constitutional conditions on access to information, which requires individuals to show that requested information is required to protect a right.

But members said the proposed legislation, to be presented early next year, would also respect the right to privacy.

The task force would be chaired by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's legal adviser Mojanku Gumbi. Other members are legal academics Mandla Mchunu and Etienne Murenik, advocates Vincent Maleka and Empie van Schoor and members of the SA Communication Services, Dirk Venter and Adriaan Nortje.

Gumbi said the Act was part of an effort to achieve an open democracy. Such a democracy was hindered by an authoritarian tradition, which had generated a deferential attitude to government, which in turn had developed a secretive and unresponsive culture.

Quizzed at a news conference on the reach of the legislation, Gumbi said provisions affecting public companies were not

TIM COHEN

usually included in such legislation. But in certain situations it might be necessary to insist that these companies fell within the ambit of the Act.

For example, when companies negotiated with unions there was a debate about whether the companies' full financial information should be provided so that the union could put its demands in context.

Companies might also be in competition with parastatals which would be at a disadvantage if they were forced to provide information and their competitors in the private sector were not.

Companies might also be involved in business which affected the state or individuals within the society, she said.

"If Anglo American is transferring all its money to Russia and it goes against government policy or if it indicates a clear non-commitment to the programmes of the government, I think government or the people should have the right to request information relating to that activity."

Maleka said many jurisdictions operated on the basis that an individual had to show some kind of interest or need, but this had proven difficult to administer.

He favoured the view that an individual should be given the right of access to all

To Page 2

Task force

B/Day 19/10/94

information and the onus should be placed on the institution concerned to show the information should not be provided. (243)

Gumbi acknowledged that all jurisdictions recognised exemptions for state security and privacy, but expressed the hope they would be as narrow as possible. (243)

The news conference ended with sharp exchanges between journalists and the panel when Gumbi referred a question

about task force members' pay to the administrative section".

Quickly recognising the irony of the situation, Gumbi apologised for seeming to be "ducking and diving" and promised to provide the information by the end of the day.

The three members not public service members would be paid either R350 an hour for the law professors, or R250 an hour for practising lawyers. They would work about 10 hours a week.

From Page 1

Staff buy a little chunk of *Tribute*

By Mzimkulu Malunga 20/10/94

THREE black executives of *Tribute* magazine have bought a substantial stake in the company that owns the magazine, Penta Publications

Tribute editor Jon Qwelane, his deputy S'bu Mngadi and editorial director Maud Motanyane have acquired a 37,5 percent shareholding in Penta in a R1,2 million deal.

The deal was financed by the FirstCorp Merchant Bank, which gave a loan to the three.

Qwelane says one of the options they are considering is to structure themselves into a company. (243)

He says the deal is the culmination of weeks of intensive negotiations between themselves, Penta management and the bank

"Fortunately the Penta management did not at all stand in our way," he says.

Qwelane, who says they might consider increasing their shareholding in the company, argues that it is high time the ownership of media serving blacks was black-owned

In addition to *Tribute*, Penta also publishes *Living, De Kat* and a health magazine *Mega Life*

Penta also has a stake in a book publishing company, Kiepersol, and is said to be in the process of launching an entertainment magazine called *Big Screen*.

ST Times
A major
change
for South

By NAZEEM HOWA

SOUTH, the Cape Town independent weekly, is to cease operating as a paid-for publication (243)

This was confirmed yesterday by South's chief executive officer Mr Ebrahim Borat, who said a free-sheet was being planned to replace it.

The weekly, which has followed a policy sympathetic to anti-apartheid organisations, has been running at a loss since its inception, with international donor funding making up the deficit.

Sources close to the project confirmed that donor funding to South was "drying up", prompting its directors to look into restructuring.

"We launched South-easter as a free-sheet and it has achieved phenomenal success. We have had a substantial amount of advertising support," Mr Borat said.

Police raid Joburg newspaper

JOHANNESBURG — Armed police, acting on a tip-off, raided the offices of the Lenasia-based newspaper the Indicator at the weekend, the second raid in three days

Editor Mr Mohammed Ismail said the six policemen from John Vorster Square claimed on Saturday afternoon they were acting on an anonymous tip-off that the newspaper was selling stolen goods, including AK-47 ri-

fles and cars

He said the newspaper would complain to Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi and PWV Safety and Security Minister Ms Jessie Duarte

Police raided the offices of the newspaper for the first time on Thursday, again claiming they had received information the office contained stolen goods and firearms

The newspaper condemned the

raids as a deplorable form of heavy-handed actions reminiscent of NP rule

CT24/10/94
"How do the police expect respect and co-operation from the public when Nat-style harassment continues?"

"Do the police not verify if there is a semblance of truth in the tip-offs? How many times do they act on hoax calls while hardened criminals run amok in the PWV?" — Sapa (243)

that knows the real story

wm 21-27/10/94 (243)

A non-profit venture, the sole aim of the newspaper is to help the homeless help themselves. The Johannesburg Homeless Training Centre in Doornfontein, from where the paper is run, is entirely manned by the homeless. For distribution, people from different homeless communities buy newspapers for 20 cents a copy from the centre, making 80 cents profit on each paper they sell.

A code of conduct applies to the more than 160 sellers, who are required to wear the green Homeless Talk badges when selling the paper.

"Each badge has a seller number for individual identification, and we advise the public to refrain from buying from sellers without these tags, and to call our offices if drunk or unruly people sell them the paper," says Cassius Plaatjies, the co-editor.

Originally from Namibia, Plaatjies (23), also a former down and out, met Smith at Park Station before working for the paper.

After losing a job with a security company, he could no longer afford his rented room in Dobsonville, Soweto.

The training centre plans to offer courses to the homeless to equip them with vocational skills. It currently runs a spaza shop to raise funds for other planned projects.

Homeless Talk has taken off in a major way.

The CJP has hired Smith on a part-time basis to help with research on street people on one of its schemes aimed at revitalising the inner city. It has also contributed its offices as a venue for Homeless Initiative Forums, established by Smith and his colleagues.

From these forums, the Johannesburg Homeless Association has set up negotiations with the Local Housing Department for transitional housing projects — unused government buildings used to house the homeless for a period on a rotating basis.

"When we talk about the home-

less, we do not refer to squatter camps and overcrowded informal settlements. We refer to the most homeless of homeless, the people sleeping on cement slabs in the streets," emphasises Smith.

Smith is no longer homeless. He has rented a flat in Wanderers Street, Johannesburg, and fills his days with responsibilities aimed at tackling the problems of the destitute. Yet he still cannot surmount the traumas he experienced while living on the streets. For example, he only eats one meal a day.

"While I was on the streets, I learnt the wisdom of not overeating as you never knew when and where your next meal was going to come from. Right now I can afford to buy my own food but I feel it as an injustice to eat more than one meal a day," he says.

"To reverse the cycle of homelessness, the street people do not just need houses, they need the support of the people to be rehabilitated and properly integrated into society."

the m... had i... do... an... ad

Learn and Teach folds as magazine's funds run dry

Star 2/11/94
■ STAFF REPORTER

The curtain has fallen on Learn and Teach, the mass-circulation adult education publication aimed at providing supplementary reading material to the estimated 12 million adults in the country who have not reached adequate literacy levels

The magazine's last issue came out last month

The decision to cease publication of the magazine, which was established in September 1981, was taken by the publication's board of trustees who said they were unable to secure funds to continue publishing

"Although Learn and Teach achieved an average monthly

circulation of 25 000 copies — and a pass-along rate of eight readers per copy — these figures were not sufficient to attract advertisers," said Learn and Teach editor Saul Molobi

"These magazine readers were, after all, among the poorest section of the population with little disposable income."

Learn and Teach's previous overseas funders were withdrawing their support for the independent media in South Africa, he said

The Learn and Teach Trust would continue to exist and would welcome proposals from interested parties with a view to reviving publication

(243)

Steel nails in grenade used in church massacre

Cape Town — Steel nails thought to have been embedded in two handgrenades flung into St James's Church in Kenilworth, Cape Town, during a service last year were found at the point where the grenades detonated, the Cape Town Supreme Court heard yesterday.

Sergeant Pieter "Stoney" Steenkamp, an explosives expert, was testifying in the trial of Gcinkhaya Makoma (18), who has pleaded not guilty to 11 charges of murder, 57 of attempted murder and unlawfully possessing ammunition.

The State alleges that on July 25 last year Makoma, acting alone or in concert with a number of persons in the execution

of a common purpose, fired at the congregation with a machine-gun and caused two handgrenades to explode among them.

In his plea explanation Makoma said he had been a member of the PAC since January last year. Members had been attacked by rival groups and this led to the formation of a task group under the leadership of Siphwo Mkweso

On August 5 he had met Mkweso at the Nyanga taxi rank and been told to take a black bag to Topcor Centre in old Crossroads. While waiting there he had been arrested

The trial continues on Friday — Sapa

Magazine closure a setback, says Cosatu

KATHRYN STRACHAN

THE closure of Learn and Teach magazine was a serious setback for the campaign to develop a strong independent media in SA, Cosatu said at the weekend.

Work in Progress and Vrye Weekblad are other independent publications which closed recently because of a lack of funds.

Cosatu said it was "scandalous" that these publications, which struggled to stay afloat through the years of apartheid repression, had been allowed to die because foreign aid had been phased out.

The independent, non-commercial media sector was more important than ever in this phase of democratisation, as new social and political conditions had created a vastly increased space for community media to address huge audiences not catered for by the commercial media. "We should see a flowering and expansion of this sector. Instead we are seeing its

contraction and withering away."

The crisis in the independent media was taking place alongside increasing concentration of ownership in the print media, together with their stranglehold over printing and distribution, it said. *2004*

Learn and Teach played a pivotal role in giving a voice to the people who had been denied education. It would have provided an invaluable vehicle to help wipe out high levels of illiteracy. *7 11194*

Commitments by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and others in government on the need to establish a trust to subsidise independent media had to be set in motion, Cosatu said. *(243)*

It would meet other concerned organisations and government to look at ways of ensuring the media was opened up.

focus on **THE MEDIA**

Sowetan 10/11/94

IT WAS the latest casualty of the withdrawal of foreign funding from local media projects. It followed the closure earlier this year of *Vrye Weekblad* and *Work in Progress*.

"The independent media are generally in a crisis," says *Learn & Teach* editor Mr Saul Molobi. "By the end of next year, it probably won't exist because of lack of funding."

Foreign funders provided the main source of funding in the past, while local donors offered only limited support through the Independent Media Diversity Trust set up a year ago.

Ms Rachel Stewart, director of the Independent Magazine Group (to which *Learn & Teach* belonged), was scathing about this lack of support from local donors. "The media conglomerations quickly gave their support to the IMDT as a gesture," says Stewart. But, she feels, it was not a serious effort to provide assistance.

She rejects the argument that the market alone should determine which publications survive.

"The independent media haven't had a chance yet to explore the markets and become viable," says Stewart. But, she concedes, maybe some of them could never become viable.

"However, that should not be the sole determinant of social services," she counters. "The independent media serves an important social role."

"If they can't survive in the market, there needs to be support from society. Half the people in South Africa are not in the market, or have minimal participation in the market."

"That doesn't mean they don't have a right to participate and be active members of society."

Molobi also draws attention to this problem. "*Learn & Teach* was the only publication of its kind serving the ordinary people marginalised by the mainstream media. There now won't be a bridge between the Government and the people on the ground. The Government will pump resources into these communities."

"But what's the use of pumping resources into them and not empowering them with knowledge and understanding? That's the unfortunate part of the closure of *Learn & Teach*."

"It was a forum through which people could voice their complaints and demands. It kept them in touch with debates. That link has been broken."

Mr Rafiq Rohan, editor of the Cape newspaper *South*, describes the magazine's closure as "a devastating blow" to the independent media.

"Meanwhile, the white-controlled monopolies are gaining in strength all the time," he says, and attributes this to their monopoly ownership of the printing and circulation industries.

"These networks," he contends, "are providing the death blow to the alternatives."

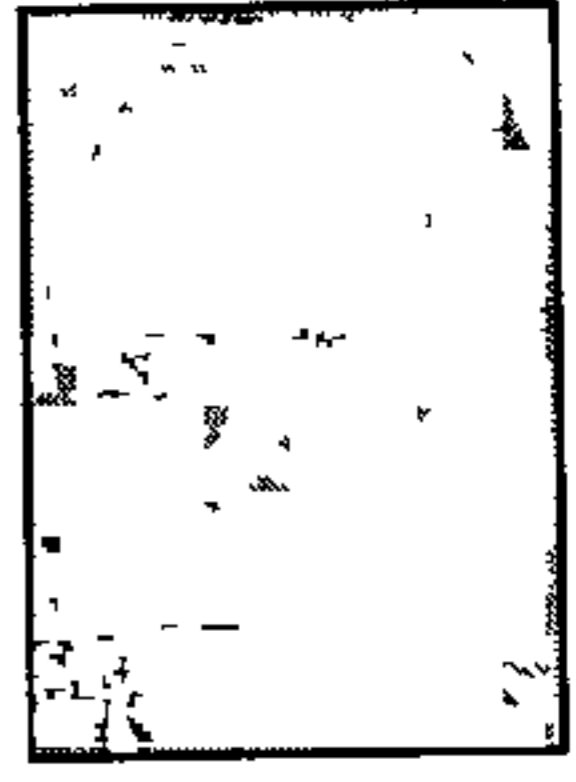
He says *South* was also affected by dwindling foreign funding but will continue publishing in its current form until the end of November.

It will then merge with its free sheet *SouthEaster*

The sudden closure of the educational magazine *Learn & Teach* last week was yet another cruel blow to the survival of the once-proud alternative media. Features writer **Tyrone**

August takes a look at the crisis:

243



FLASHBACK ... *New Nation's* Gabu Tugwana displays a copy of his newspaper after the publication was banned during the mid-'80s.

from the beginning of December and start negotiations to sell the title *South*.

Mr Chris Gatuza, the chairman of Community Media Network (an umbrella group of 37 media projects), believes the Government should assist the independent media. "There is a need to go beyond a commitment to freedom of expression in the constitution and actually look at a structure to make this possible," he says.

He describes such a structure as an enabling mechanism that will be a buffer between the Government and the media because "no government really likes the media. We also have our concerns about a potentially cushy relationship with the Government," Gatuza adds.

Discussions about such a structure will look at models in countries like Sweden where the government recognises it has a responsibility to ensure media diversity.

"But," he says, "in the short term we have a problem." To avoid more casualties, he suggests that foreign funders look at an interim phase to provide relief to the alternative media.

However, even with help, a tough battle lies

ahead. Professor Guy Berger, head of Rhodes University's journalism department, warns that the market is tough for the print media.

He ascribes this to the new role of broadcasting. "During the elections, people began to realise they could trust the SABC for sufficient and credible information. Improved broadcasting is a big threat to the print media. In general, the print media is not in a healthy way."

Berger says there also seems to be a shift away from being prepared to pay for information and points to the new role of the SABC and knock-and-drop community newspapers.

Against this background, *New Nation* editor Mr Gabu Tugwana feels some kind of intervention was necessary to assist the already-depleted independent media.

"Unless powerful forces intervene soon, the independent media — which played an important role in helping to deliver change — will be thrown on the scrap heap of history. The contradiction is that the monopolies which were silent when they were needed most are the ones who are now enjoying the fruits of the small medium," he says.

THE state had violated the Sunday Times's fundamental rights to freedom of expression and access to information by preventing it from publishing details of a judicial commission of inquiry into corruption, the Pretoria Supreme Court was told this week.

Mr Gilbert Marcus, representing the newspaper, told the court that the gag amounted to the state claiming for itself the right to decide what could or could not be published.

"The Sunday Times does not come to this court as a supplicant, asking indulgence, but to assert its constitutionally entrenched rights," he said.

Mr Marcus was appearing before Mr Justice M Joffe, who last Saturday afternoon granted the state an urgent interdict preventing the Sunday Times from publishing an extract from the Vander Watt commission of inquiry's

Sunday Times fights for the right to publish

report on tender irregularities involving the departments of health and correctional services

At issue are five of the approximately 600 pages of the report, included in the court record, relating to proceedings between suspended deputy director Dr Johan Kotze and the Health Department.

Dr Kotze is alleged to have accepted cash and gifts worth hundreds of thousands of rands in return for favouring a Johannesburg-based company, ProTol, in awarding tenders for soya-based sausages and meatballs to prisons

The five pages were submitted by the state after special authorisation was obtained from President Nelson Mandela's office for

their use during the Kotze hearing.

The state claims the Sunday Times is prohibited from publishing the contents in terms of both this presidential minute and a regulation governing the Vander Watt commission, which bars publication of the findings until the report is released by Mr Mandela.

The newspaper is opposing the application on the grounds that the restraint sought by the state is unconstitutional

Arguing that premature publication would severely hamper state administration, Advocate Marinus van Wyk said, until released at the president's discretion, the status of the Vander Watt report was akin to that of a police dossier while a criminal investiga-

tion was in process

Release of information at this stage could result in the destruction of evidence needed to act against individuals indicted by the commission, or hinder departmental investigations of misconduct against them, he said

While conceding that the five pages of the report contained nothing that constituted a threat to national security, Mr van Wyk argued that an embargo on publication at this time did not violate the newspaper's constitutional rights, as it was only temporary.

"The full report will inevitably be released, allowing the Sunday Times to publish information which we agree is in the public interest. Until then, the rights of the

state to carry out its functions unhindered must be upheld by the court," he said

Mr Marcus argued that the manner in which the state was seeking to gag the Sunday Times "betrays an ignorance of constitutionally protected rights".

In terms of Section 33 of the Constitution, the state had the right to impose limitations on an individual's rights to freedom of expression and access to information but, in order to do so, should provide "cogent and persuasive" evidence to justify the restraint, Mr Marcus argued

"This has not been done. Argument that the restraint is of a temporary nature and therefore does not violate the newspaper's rights,

SUNDAY TIMES, November 13 1994

amounts to licensing in its crudest form.

"The state has failed to advance reasons for the need to maintain secrecy on a case of public concern regarding the corruption of a public official and has not supplied any reason why publication of the five pages of the Vander Watt report would inhibit proper consideration of the report by the president, or provide a barrier to departmental action against the officials involved

"Where the state seeks to limit publication in terms of the Constitution's Section 33, the action must be justifiable in an open and democratic society based on freedom and equality. It is up to the government to show why these rights

should not be upheld, and a cogent case for infringing those rights has not been presented"

The embargo on publication imposed by presidential minute 63 suppressed certain questions regarding the Vander Watt report.

"Why is the president sitting on this report? Why are allegations of corruption not being made available so the public can deal with them?" asked Mr Marcus

"It is the quintessential right of the press to criticise the government and hold it to accountability, and freedom of information is important so that there can be an accountable administration at all levels of government"

Asked by Judge Joffe what the

position would be if a commission of inquiry uncovered something "sensitive to the country" and the state declared a need to restrict publication, Mr Marcus said a restrictive regulation could be framed "that would place an obligation on the president to release the information within a reasonable time"

This would constitute a restriction rather than a veto and, even if such information represented a "clear and present danger to national security", the president would need to clearly delineate the categories of information withheld

Mr Marcus agreed that there could be circumstances where premature publication of information could undermine justice and prior restraint would be justified, "but the state has not given cogent and persuasive evidence in this case"

Judgment has been reserved

A new approach to communication

THE closure of the Black Sash national advice centres announced last week could be a blessing in disguise for Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, the political head of the South African Communication Service (SACS). As the communications arm of government, and formerly the Bureau of Information, it remains an unrepresentative, Afrikaner-dominated, Pre-toria-based bureaucracy. Mbeki is charged with its conversion to an effective communications vehicle to promote the reconstruction and development programme and redress the information deficit left by apartheid.

Addressing Parliament on September 23, Mbeki outlined his vision of the SACS becoming fully "informed and involved" in reconstruction.

He cited SACS's affirmative action campaign as proof of its new dispensation 30% of staff would be black by September 1995, and they would occupy 50% of management positions by September 1996.

The service had already provided valuable assistance in the Transitional Executive Council, the Independent Media Commission, the "highly successful" presidential inauguration and preparations for October's OAU Ministers of Information conference at Sun City.

Personnel once charged with managing counter-intelligence campaigns to undermine the Namibian elections had proved equally capable of serving the parastatals that delivered a hefty ANC majority in the 1994 election. Why doubt, then, that the SACS could adjust to the new shape of provincial government, the principle of transparency and the objectives of the RDP?

His Cabinet colleagues did not share Mbeki's confidence. When Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting Minister Pallo Jordan took office he wanted nothing

MARK ASHURST

to do with the SACS, although it should logically have fallen under him.

The absence of an Information Minister in the government of national unity, a departure not only from SA precedent but also the norms of most other African states, suggests Jordan's ideological hostility to a government information bureau prevailed in the drawing up of Cabinet posts. His view that the organisation is a "discredited propaganda tool characteristic of renegade Third World governments" is an open secret, says an ANC colleague.

Minister without Portfolio responsible for the RDP, Jay Naidoo, was the obvious candidate to benefit more than any other Minister from the services of a well-sourced information agency to drive the RDP. But well-placed sources say he was deterred by fears that an unconstituted SACS could undermine him.

So SACS landed in the lap of the famously diplomatic First Deputy President. Mbeki's conciliatory stance arguably makes him the best man for the job.

According to one black government spokesman who took office in 1990, SACS has been subject to "stinging and fiery criticism from the President's office... but it is the one department that is unlike a government department in its operation". Government's new spokesmen are less accommodating with regard to SACS' history because they have not experienced "how slow and unprofessional" are the other arms of the public service.

Joe Slovo's spokesman Stephen Laufer seems to endorse this view. SACS information gathering and media monitoring services provide vital backup to Ministers and their spokesman. "There have been tensions over SACS's accountability to spokesmen, but there is no confusion over its role. The emphasis is on the last word: they pro-

vide a service".

There is, however, an obvious conflict of interest between SACS's role inside government, and Mbeki's vision of an interactive national information service.

The strategic skills that streamline the work of ministerial departments and their spokesmen are quite different from those required to manage a public information service. If the service's real value to government is indeed to protect naive officials from the potential embarrassments of their own ideological exuberance, then somebody else should be running a government information service.

Ground level

Black Sash spokesman Gille de Vlieg says the service is ill-suited to the task of disseminating government information. The nine Black Sash advice centres provide a model infrastructure for the kind of SACS envisaged by Mbeki.

"Government does need to be able to explain its policies simply and easily to people in language that people understand... it needs to be out on ground level." Government has a duty to publish its information, but it may not be best qualified to distribute it.

Although Black Sash is known for its resistance to apartheid, its structures ironically embody Mbeki's goal of facilitating "two-way communication between government and the people".

While explaining legislation and offering advice (such as how to circumvent the Pass Laws) to anyone who wanted it, Black Sash used its flow of information from the SACP spokesman Jeremy Cronin claims

Black Sash, operating on "a miserable budget and volunteer staff" provided a more efficient information service than the Pretoria-based SACS with 600 staff and a budget reported to be R60m a year. About

100 000 people visit the Black Sash advice office in Johannesburg every year.

Mbeki's claim that the service can discharge its information function "in a manner which ensures government does not engage in deceitful propaganda (but) focuses its resources on communication as a bridge-bulldozer" is a prerequisite for transformation.

Naidoo has already used the service to place full-page advertisements in the national Press and publicise the objectives of the RDP.

President Nelson Mandela's spokesman Joel Netshitenzhe says a strategic task team will soon be appointed to rationalise SACS's huge publishing operation, and define new roles for its technically skilled staff. Service head David Venter, applying his experience as a trained psychologist to his professional circumstance, approached the ANC before the election to try to do this. But plans for a joint ANC-SACS workshop, widely perceived as the first step towards a new information policy, were overtaken by events and the party took office without a policy.

A meeting this weekend between the SACS, ministerial spokesmen and the parliamentary Press lobby was the first more or less public attempt to reach a consensus on how the service can realise its new, politically correct objectives.

It remains to be seen how progress made in Parliament's public relations department can set a precedent for meeting the diverse information needs of SA.

Until then, SACS spokesmen will remain shy of the Press when approached for comment on articles such as this one. And rural villages will wrestle with identical problems in developing infrastructure, industry, farming and education — without ever knowing that someone else already has the information they need.

Police bid to gag press

By COLIN HOWELL
News Editor

POLICE yesterday slapped a nationwide ban on reporters speaking to policemen in a hardline move to ensure that only "authorised" information is released to the public.

This follows what police claim are "incorrect" reports linking the murder of Prof Johan Heyns and the discovery of an arms cache in Pretoria.

Lieutenant-General Andre Pruis, head of the SAPS' community relations division, has approved an internal memorandum invoking police standing orders forbidding policemen other than appointed liaison officers from speaking to the press.

Colonel Raymond Dowd, Western Cape police public relations chief, yesterday informed reporters that any policeman who passed on information to the media without the express permission of the media office would face a departmental trial.

Reporters would no longer have access to officers at the Peninsula's radio control unit, who have kept newspapers briefed on breaking news.

Col Dowd said the restriction had been endorsed by the Regional Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Nic Acker.

The news clamp departs from the "transparent" information strategy employed since the states of emergency were lifted.

There was an angry response:
● Western Cape Police Minister Mr Pat-

rick McKenzie said "The role of a liaison officer should be to facilitate communication between the press and the SAPS — not to act as a barrier"

● A spokesman for Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi said the ministry "would not approve of anything that runs counter to the interests of transparency in the police" and noted that operational decisions by the police were not routinely cleared by the minister

A police spokesman in Pretoria claimed liaison officers around the country had reported continuing problems where information "leaked" to the press prematurely had hampered investigations or had been incorrect. CT 16/11/94

"For some time we have been having hassles — and the Heyns report was the final straw."

CHRIS BATEMAN reports that Mr McKenzie said he would summon Colonel Dowd first thing today to clarify the matter, but he would go out of his way to ensure there was no clampdown on the press in the Western Cape.

POLICE CHIEF ASKS FOR MEETING WITH MBEKI

— PAGE 3

rick McKenzie said he had not been consulted: "If they are going to gag the guys in the department, they won't gag me."

"Just when we are beginning to experience what a free South Africa is all about, the police must not be the instrument whereby the Great Shut Up comes again."

● The National Party said the press "must have the freedom to communicate with any member of the SAPS" Spokes-

To page 2

From page 1

He "seriously questioned" the need for a standing order preventing policemen talking to the media in the much-vaunted transparency of a new order.

He intended appointing a civilian to run the Western Cape police liaison department from February next year. (243) (251)

A spokesman for the Commissioner of Police, General Johan van der Merwe, said no new policy matters had been raised in Genl Pruis' memorandum. CT 16/11/94

However, "during the past couple of years it has been common knowledge that reporters have recruited unauthorised sources within the SA Police".

"While we have been lenient in this regard, matters have come to a head.

"Certain journalists have not complied with an agreement between the SAPS and the Conference of Editors and had approached unofficial sources, leading to major investigations being jeopardised.

"Consequently, the attention of police was drawn to the already existing instructions and no new policy is at issue

"However, the commissioner has made it clear that the SA Police must be flexible and realistic," the spokesman said.

Accordingly, reporters at scenes of crimes could interview officers in charge there and information about the investigation of crimes could be divulged by the detective probing the case, provided the police official was identified in the report and was "prepared to accept full responsibility for the information furnished"

the SA taxi industry

243

Police bid to gag press

By COLIN HOWELL
News Editor

POLICE yesterday slapped a nationwide ban on reporters speaking to policemen in a hardline move to ensure that only "authorised" information is released to the public.

This follows what police claim are "incorrect" reports linking the murder of Prof Johan Heyns and the discovery of an arms cache in Pretoria.

Lieutenant-General Andre Pruis, head of the SAPS' community relations division, has approved an internal memorandum invoking police standing orders forbidding policemen other than appointed liaison officers from speaking to the press.

Colonel Raymond Dowd, Western Cape police public relations chief, yesterday informed reporters that any policeman who passed on information to the media without the express permission of the media office would face a departmental trial.

Reporters would no longer have access to officers at the Peninsula's radio control unit, who have kept newspapers briefed on breaking news.

Col Dowd said the restriction had been endorsed by the Regional Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Nic Acker.

The news clamp departs from the "transparent" information strategy employed since the states of emergency were lifted.

There was an angry response:

● Western Cape Police Minister Mr Pat-

rick McKenzie said he had not been consulted: "If they are going to gag the guys in the department, they won't gag me."

man Mr Danie du Plessis said: "The role of a liaison officer should be to facilitate communication between the press and the SAPS — not to act as a barrier".

● A spokesman for Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi said the ministry "would not approve of anything that runs counter to the interests of transparency in the police" and noted that operational decisions by the police were not routinely cleared by the minister.

A police spokesman in Pretoria claimed liaison officers around the country had reported continuing problems where information "leaked" to the press prematurely had hampered investigations or had been incorrect. CT 16/11/94

"For some time we have been having hassles — and the Heyns report was the final straw." CHRIS BATEMAN reports that Mr McKenzie said he would summon Colonel Dowd first thing today to clarify the matter, but he would go out of his way to ensure there was no clampdown on the press in the Western Cape.

POLICE CHIEF ASKS FOR MEETING WITH MBEKI

— PAGE 3

rick McKenzie said he had not been consulted: "If they are going to gag the guys in the department, they won't gag me."

"Just when we are beginning to experience what a free South Africa is all about, the police must not be the instrument whereby the Great Shut Up comes again."

● The National Party said the press "must have the freedom to communicate with any member of the SAPS". Spokes-

To page 2

From page 1

He "seriously questioned" the need for a standing order preventing policemen talking to the media in the much-vaunted transparency of a new order.

He intended appointing a civilian to run the Western Cape police liaison department from February next year.

A spokesman for the Commissioner of Police, General Johan van der Merwe, said no new policy matters had been raised in Genl Pruis' memorandum. CT 16/11/94

However, "during the past couple of years it has been common knowledge that reporters have recruited unauthorised sources within the SA Police"

"While we have been lenient in this regard, matters have come to a head.

"Certain journalists have not complied with an agreement between the SAPS and the Conference of Editors and had approached unofficial sources, leading to major investigations being jeopardised.

"Consequently, the attention of police was drawn to the already existing instructions and no new policy is at issue.

"However, the commissioner has made it clear that the SA Police must be flexible and realistic," the spokesman said.

Accordingly, reporters at scenes of crimes could interview officers in charge there and information about the investigation of crimes could be divulged by the detective probing the case, provided the police official was identified in the report and was "prepared to accept full responsibility for the information furnished".

MRG. 17/11/04.

Police chief lifts Press contact ban

JOHANNESBURG — ²⁴³Police Commissioner Johan van der Merwe has lifted the ban on members of the force talking to reporters

"I have urgently directed that an order banning SAP members (other than official liaison officers) from media contact be withdrawn immediately, as such an order undoubtedly contradicts SAP obligations and policy to be as fully transparent as possible in all circumstances," he said in a statement yesterday

"In addition, in order to speed up and further entrench a culture of transparency and communication within the SAP, I have decided to introduce an interim transparency and communication programme."

He said this programme would "sensitise and train as many SAP members as possible in their obligations for transparency and communication" — Reuter

Police media restrictions

By COLIN HOWELL

IN a dramatic policy reversal yesterday, the commissioner of police scrapped all old-style media restrictions, including a national ban on policemen speaking to reporters.

General Johan van der Merwe rescinded the standing orders which were the backbone of the news clamp authorised on Monday by Lieutenant-General André Pruis of the SAPS community relations division. He also announced a fundamental re-shaping of police communication systems, promising "maximum transparency".

The about-turn followed a Cape Times front page report yesterday that Gen Pruis' internal police directive had revived the ban on all policemen, other than approved liaison officers, speaking to the press.

The clamp was announced and implemented in the Western Cape on Tuesday.

In a statement issued in Pretoria, Gen Van der Merwe said:

● "No such ban can in future be placed on SAPS members."

● Gen Pruis' order had been withdrawn immediately as it "undoubtedly contradicts SAPS obligations and policy to be as fully transparent as possible."

● The media would now be allowed "the broadest possible contact with the police."

● A new programme had been launched nationally and regionally to speed up and entrench transparency and communication within the SAPS.

● This Transparency and Communication Programme (TCP) would "sensitise and train as many SAPS members as possible

with regard to their obligations concerning transparency and communication"

DOWD 'DUMPED' WITHOUT WARNING

See PAGE 2.

CALL FOR ACTION ON POLICE CRISIS

See PAGE 5

NEW ERA FOR POLICE, MEDIA

See PAGE 6

His only new requirement was that all SAPS members who liaise with the media

"report such contact to the relevant media liaison office" so that media contact would be on an "orderly basis".

Gen Van der Merwe said he had instructed the SAPS to submit a draft proposal on the structuring and implementation of the TCP as soon as possible.

It is understood that Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi was not consulted before Monday's directive was made but it could not be established yesterday if political pressure had been a factor in the sudden reversal and Mr Mufamadi could not be reached for comment.

Before the commissioner's statement, an urgent meeting of the Conference of Editors was to be called to discuss the directive that only "authorised" information is to be released to the public, reports CHRIS BATE.

scrapped

(243)

The proposed meeting had received the immediate backing of Western Cape Police Minister Mr Patrick McKenzie, who described it as "excellent — to help break down the culture of the past".

He said he was "elated" at the lifting of a national ban preventing policemen from speaking to reporters.

"I believe Gen Van der Merwe did what is in the best interests of the SAPS. We the community are much happier with a transparent police service," Mr McKenzie said.

The chairman of the Editors' Conference and editor of City Press, Mr Mzimkulu Sibuya, said the press was as important to police as it was to the public because it was able to highlight "things police are unable to uncover".

CT. 17/11/94

Police

By COLIN HOWELL

IN a dramatic policy reversal yesterday, the commissioner of police scrapped all old-style media restrictions, including a national ban on policemen speaking to reporters

General Johan van der Merwe rescinded the standing orders which were the backbone of the news clamp authorised on Monday by Lieutenant-General Andre Pruis of the SAPS community relations division. He also announced a fundamental re-shaping of police communication systems, promising "maximum transparency".

The about-turn followed a Cape Times front page report yesterday that Gen Pruis' internal police directive had revived the ban on all policemen, other than approved liaison officers, speaking to the press

The clamp was announced and implemented in the Western Cape on Tuesday. In a statement issued in Pretoria, Gen Van der Merwe said

- "No such ban can in future be placed on SAPS members"
- Gen Pruis' order had been withdrawn immediately as it "undoubtedly contradicts SAPS obligations and policy to be as fully transparent as possible"
- The media would now be allowed "the broadest possible contact with the police"
- A new programme had been launched nationally and regionally to speed up and entrench transparency and communication within the SAPS
- This Transparency and Communication Programme (TCP) would "sensitise and train as many SAPS members as possible

with regard to their obligations concerning transparency and communication"

DOWD 'DUMPED' WITHOUT WARNING

See PAGE 2

CALL FOR ACTION ON POLICE CRISIS

See PAGE 5

NEW ERA FOR POLICE, MEDIA

See PAGE 6

Has only new requirement was that all SAPS members who liaise with the media

restrictions scrapped

"report such contact to the relevant media liaison office" so that media contact would be on an "orderly basis"

Gen Van der Merwe said he had instructed the SAPS to submit a draft proposal on the structuring and implementation of the TCP as soon as possible

It is understood that Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi was not consulted before Monday's directive was made but it could not be established yesterday if political pressure had been a factor in the sudden reversal and Mr Mufamadi could not be reached for comment

Before the commissioner's statement, an urgent meeting of the Conference of Editors was to be called to discuss the directive that only "authorised" information is to be released to the public, reports CHRIS BATEMAN

The proposed meeting had received the immediate backing of Western Cape Police Minister Mr Patrick McKenzie, who described it as "excellent — to help break down the culture of the past"

He said he was "elated" at the lifting of a national ban preventing policemen from speaking to reporters

"I believe Gen Van der Merwe did what is in the best interests of the SAPS. We the community are much happier with a transparent police service," Mr McKenzie said

The chairman of the Editors' Conference and editor of City Press, Mr Mzimkulu Sibya, said the press was as important to police as it was to the public because it was able to highlight "things police are unable to uncover"

Mwasa in dispute

Sowetan

18/11/94

THE Media Workers Association of South Africa has declared a wage dispute with Perskor and may go on a national strike if the company fails to meet the workers' demand. The union's Southern Transvaal administrative secretary, Mr Themba Hlatshwayo, said the union expected the dispute to go for conciliation next week. Coupled with a 20 percent increase, the

union is demanding an initial wage adjustment to bring the minimum to R323 a week.

Hlatshwayo said it was a disgrace that workers earned as little as R164 a week. He said the dispute could result in a national work stoppage at all Perskor plants.

Human resources manager of the company Mr Fanie Gouws was not available for comment. (243) (10)

Media freedom 'a battle'

MBABANE — Little was known about the battle against authoritarian media practices in Swaziland, Media Institute of Southern Africa chairwoman Ms Gwen Lis-ter said yesterday.

Opening the third annual Misa conference attended by representatives from 11 countries, she said it was significant for the conference to take place in Swaziland to express solidarity with

the media in a country without a constitution or a bill of rights

University of Swaziland political scientist Mr Nomthetho Sime-lane said. "As is characteristic of autocratic rule most African governments do not tolerate opposition and criticism. Journalists in Southern Africa have to fight for basic rights often taken for granted in other parts of the world."

"To complicate matters even

more, ownership and control of newspapers is likely to be in the hands of people wishing to protect certain entrenched interests."

The experiences of South African journalists should be an inspiration to their regional colleagues because they could not be stopped reporting critical issues by banning orders and persecution. — Sapa

Press freedom abuses 'should (243) bring sanctions'

ET 29/11/94
The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Media Institute of Southern Africa (Misa) has called for sanctions against Angola, Zambia and Swaziland for abusing press freedom

It is to launch a "hotline" in the region to defend journalists against infringements of their fundamental rights to freedom of expression, the institute said in a press statement

In Zambia, clauses in the Code of Ethics Bill required journalists writing about political leaders to appear before a tribunal to justify stories and disclose sources

"This undermines press freedom, gives exclusive privilege to a few individuals and breaches ethical demands of the profession of journalism," said Misa

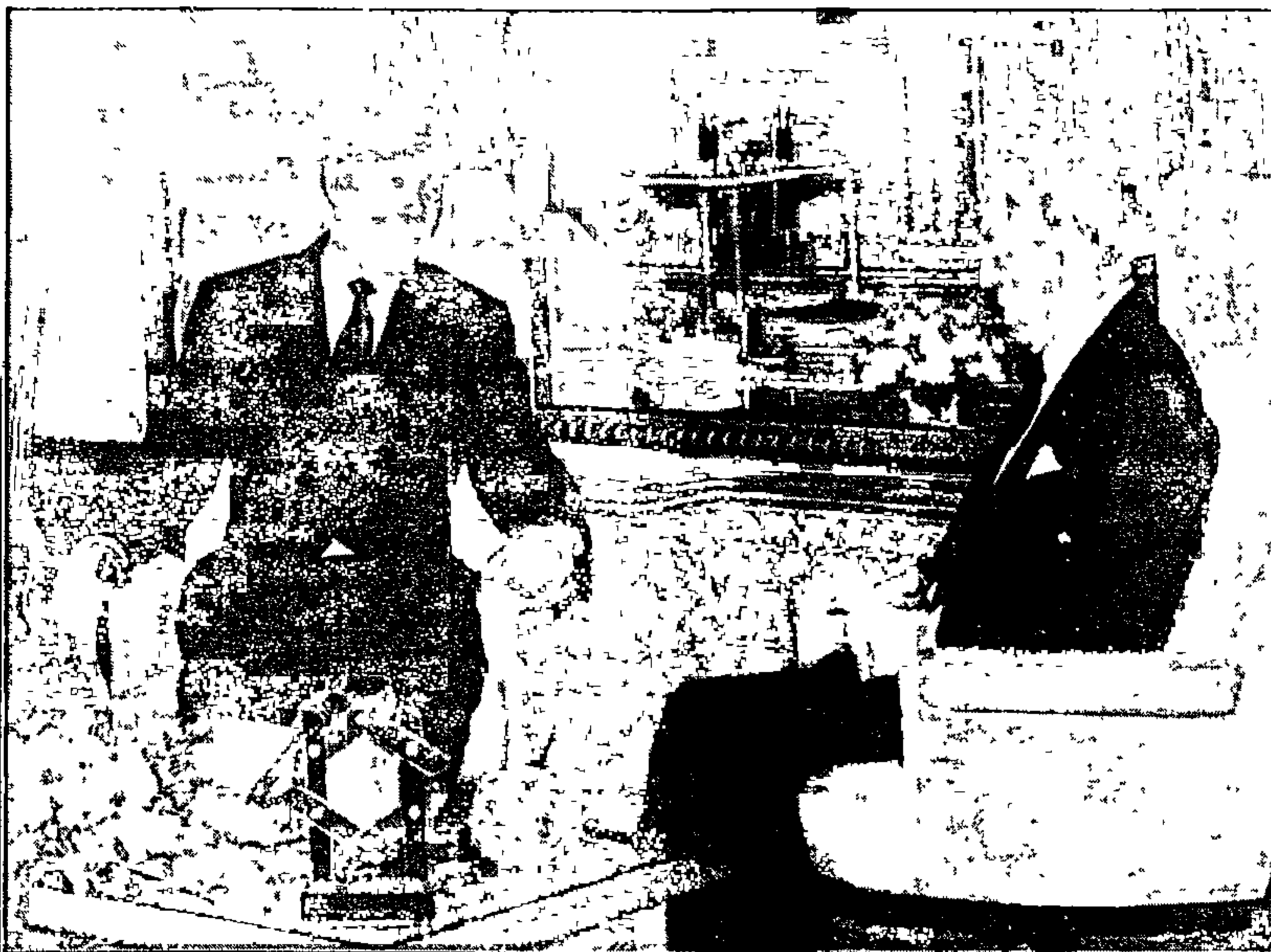
The Angolan government, Misa claimed, was applying reinforcement of governing party control of the media, applying censorship and manipulating the state-run media.

The rebel movement Unita, meanwhile, restricted the activities of journalists.

Swaziland did not have constitutional provisions guaranteeing press freedom

Misa also announced that Zimbabwean journalist Basildon Peta of the Harare-based Daily Gazette newspaper won this year's Misa Press Freedom Award for exposing tax evasion by companies owned by the ruling ZANU-PF party.

committee will decide on election allegations



Moroccan King Hassan II receives President Nelson Mandela at the Royal Palace in the capital Rabat on Monday. They discussed the Angolan problem. PIC:AFP

Press freedom abuse claim

Sowetan 30/11/94

THE Media Institute of Southern Africa has called for sanctions against Angola, Zambia and Swaziland for abusing Press freedom

It also said it would launch a "hotline" in the region to defend journalists against infringements of their fundamental rights to freedom of expression, the institute said in a Press statement.

In Zambia, clauses in the Leadership Code of Ethics Bill requires journalists writing about political leaders to appear before a tribunal to justify stories and disclose sources

"This course undermines Press freedom, gives exclusive privilege to a few

individuals in society and breaches ethical demands of the profession of journalism," said Misa.

The Angolan government, Misa claimed, was applying reinforcement of governing party control of the media, applying censorship and manipulating the state-run media. (243)

The rebel movement Unifa, meanwhile, restricted the activities of journalists.

Swaziland, Misa added, did not have constitutional provisions guaranteeing Press freedom in spite of having been a signatory to the Windhoek Declaration.

Misa also announced that Zimbabwe

journalist Basildon Peta of the Harare-based *Daily Gazette* newspaper won this year's Misa Press Freedom Award for exposing massive tax evasion by companies owned by the ruling Zanu-PF party.

"He was repeatedly detained, interrogated and finally charged by police in terms of Zimbabwe's Official Secrets Act," said the Misa statement.

"During five days of incessant questioning, police tried to make Peta reveal who had given him information. However, Peta remained true to his professional ethics and refused to reveal his sources." — *Argus Foreign Service*.

IBA asked to avoid rigid regulations

Appeal for media cross-ownership

The Independent Broadcasting Authority should not impose rigid regulations on cross-media ownership by newspaper groups, its panel heard yesterday.

This was submitted in Johannesburg by the Newspaper Press Union (NPU) with backing from Nasionale Pers and the Provincial Press Association (PPA) at the IBA hearing into cross-ownership.

Diversity was the key to ensuring the media was buoyant, NPU spokesman Cobus Scholtz said. The IBA should encourage investment in the industry and regulations should be measured against this criterion.

The absence of, or rigidly controlled, cross-ownership would cause struggling publications and registrations to collapse, he

said

Harsh regulations ran counter to world trends, and the economic realities of South Africa demanded flexibility.

"Regulate the industry to permit the best interests of the public and help us to ensure there are more media and more markets," Scholtz said. (243)

The main newspaper groups did not seek to monopolise the industry and were prepared to help smaller groups

Nasionale Pers chief executive Hennie van Deventer said the term "monopoly" had always been used loosely.

All five large groups (Nasionale Pers, Perskor, Argus, TML and Caxton) plus a whole range of publications owned by others were fighting for readers and

advertising

Fierce competition was taking place in a small economy and the application of sound business principles was paramount to survival, Van Deventer said.

Newspapers should be allowed to invest in other media forms to safeguard their future.

"If prevented from doing so, newspapers are left criminally unprotected against inroads by challengers such as the computer industry that already have the capacity for carrying advertisements and could send news and pictures down the line."

PPA member Martin Dannheiser said most community-based newspapers were struggling to exist. Merging with radio stations would be of mutual financial benefit — Sapa.

Star 11/2/94

Newspapers have 'skills to run radio'

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Established SA newspapers would be able to run radio stations successfully as they had the necessary skills and financial muscle, Nasionale Pers chief executive (newspapers) Mr Henne van Deventer told the Independent Broadcast Authority yesterday

Dismissing the IBA panel's fears that newspapers owners would dictate the editorial policy of radio stations, Mr Van Deventer said that within Nasionale Pers there were "different voices" in the form of diverse publications such as City Press and Beeld.

Newspaper Press Union spokesman Mr Cobus Scholtz also came out in support of cross-ownership, saying

it would serve "in the best interests of the public" through providing a diverse range of services

"It would be dangerous for the IBA to rigidly apply the cross-media regulations — that one person could control no more than one TV licence and two FM and AM radio licences — as this would hamper flexibility," he said.

Both Nasionale Pers and the NPU

asked the IBA to view each application separately and to consider the background to each case

An IBA official said the organisation was primarily concerned with the ownership and influence of the media. "We don't need more of the existing media groups. What this country really needs is better diversification of the media"

Report due on
film controls
27 2/12/94

PRETORIA — The publications and film control task group appointed by Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi to investigate the validity of the Publications Act presented its report, and proposed bill yesterday

Home Affairs spokesman Mr. Hennie Meyer said the task group compiled its report after considering 2 000 written submissions as well as oral evidence from 60 other parties.

He said the report and bill would be scrutinised and submitted to the cabinet in due course. — Sapa (743)

Bill offers access to state records

Political Staff

PRETORIA. — A freedom of information bill, which could provide for special courts to give the public access to state records and put an official in every department to ensure openness, is likely to be tabled in parliament early next year.

A five-member task force responsible for drafting what will be known as the Open Democracy Act has circulated a discussion document, inside and outside of government, describing the new act's proposed main elements.

The group has already held consultations with a wide range of people including journalists, media academics and organised business. Senior members of the security and intelligence community have also been asked for comment.

Defence force and police top brass have welcomed the act, according to the chairman of the task force Mojanku Gumbi.

However, the document has sparked a fierce debate on what types of information should be protected by exemption from the act and some

sectors of the security forces and business have pulled in the reins on openness.

The discussion document suggests that national security, law enforcement, commercial confidentiality and personal privacy will be among the considerations when exemptions are written into the act.

The Open Democracy Bill, which could come before the national assembly as early as February, will incorporate elements of internationally recognised legislation.

(243)

ART 2 | 12 | 94

(243)

The Star spikes first salvoes in press war

ARG 3/12/94 (243)

LOUIS DE VILLIERS

JOHANNESBURG — The refusal by The Star newspaper to accept a series of advertisements from Times Media Limited's Business Day this week is the first salvo in what could evolve into something of an English-language Press war in key market segments.

With copy lines such as "If you don't advertise in Business Day, you must have stars in your eyes", and "Advertise in an important business newspaper, not an impotent one", the Business Day ads were regarded by The Star general manager Graeme King as a direct attack on his newspaper's revenue base.

"Part of the Argus strategy is to upweight business coverage in a very serious drive to approach the business market nationally," says Mr King.

"This is why Business Day has hit back with this advertising campaign — the paper's management clearly has the jitters."

Business Day editor Jim Jones says his company is well aware of the plans at Argus.

"We're not worried — we welcome the competition which will generate interest," he says.

Both Mr Jones and Business Day marketing manager Gisele Wertheim-Aymes feel The Star should have accepted the paper's ads. "We all have the right to market ourselves," says Miss Wertheim-Aymes.

Although relatively insignificant, this incident is a precursor of things to come.

Argus clearly has a number of tricks up its sleeve — the company's advertising business is currently up for pitch with incumbents Mundels and NSOP coming up against heavyweights Ogilvy & Mather Rightford Searle-Tripp & Makin (Cape), Hunt Las-caris TBWA and Partnership.

Mr King will not let on what

the brief is — it is understood, however, that the new direction at Argus could involve a name-change as well as "a number of launches" The business may be worth in the region of R5 million.

A key figure in the Argus plans is Ivan Fallon, appointed by Tony O'Reilly as group editorial director.

"Business Day may well know about some of our plans — we have interviewed half of their staff, after all," says Mr Fallon.

"The South African newspaper market, whether by accident or design, evolved a rather strange ownership structure in the past which resulted in creating an effective cartel with one group dominating the business field and our group dominating other areas.

"One group also dominates the Sunday market, except in Durban. Now that the cartel is finished, it does not take a genius to see that there are huge glaring gaps.

"There is no competition for Business Day — there is a huge vacuum in the business market. There is also a vacuum over the weekend."

Mr Fallon admits that he has been recruiting business and investment writers to drive the new Argus business initiative.

Former Playboy editor Jeremy Gordin, he says, has been appointed managing editor of a new business product which will take on Business Day.

An advertising segment which Argus papers have long missed out on is financial notices, which have to appear in morning newspapers.

This segment, which is bread and butter to Business Day, will now be targeted through a morning/afternoon strategy, says Mr Fallon.

"We will be using group re-

sources for the benefit of all our four morning papers for the first time.

"Business advertisers will be offered the circulation base of the Cape Times, the Mercury, the Pretoria News and The Star in what we believe is a unique concept, not to my knowledge done anywhere in the world before," says Mr Fallon.

The rejected Business Day adverts used a SABRE research report to back up its claims of business superiority.

As things stand, says Partnership media director Chris Eyre, SABRE indicates that Business Day has a coverage of 24,1 percent of the corporate market against The Star's 26,4 percent.

The Star's financial section, however, lags at a coverage figure of 21,1 percent. The Star has wider coverage in all sectors bar top management, where Business Day outperforms it with a coverage of 37,7 percent against figures of 30,7 for The Star and 26,6 percent for its finance section.

With the new Argus national business offering, this will change dramatically.

Mr King estimates that Argus will be able to claim a business circulation of 150 000 once the new product is up and running against an audited Business Day circulation of 34 000.

Mr Fallon does not want to elaborate on any of the other new product plans at Argus.

It is clear that some initiatives can be expected to take on The Sunday Times, which he describes as a "lame" product.

There are also hints that a populist tabloid or a Sunday colour magazine could be in the offing.

Whichever way things go, the only certainty is that a new era of intense competition has dawned in the South African English-language Press.

New legislation plans to allow greater freedom

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

FAR-REACHING liberalisation of censorship laws is contained in draft legislation to be presented to the cabinet and parliament early next year.

The draft legislation is in line with earlier statements by home affairs minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi that no one should be allowed to decide what others read, watch or hear.

All that will remain of South Africa's once-formidable censorship laws will be an outright ban on.

- Child pornography, defined as involving children younger than 16.
- The depiction of bestiality.
- The depiction of extreme violence, including rape
- Promotion of religious hatred

A report on the findings of a task group of government, religious, academic and religious experts was presented to Chief Buthelezi last week.

It will be presented to the cabinet early next year, home affairs ministry spokesman Henne Meyer said today.

The report proposes retaining a restructured version of the present publications control board

Likely to be called the Film and Publications Board, the new body will have a director appointed for five years and advisers appointed for three years

Unlike the present board, its task will be limited to investigating complaints from the public but will not be allowed to conduct blanket reviews of publications.

The draft legislation is part of a shift of emphasis from banning and censoring what people can see and hear, to reconciling conflicting interests

The new law could bring to an end perceived conflict between existing censorship laws and the constitution, which guarantees the right of freedom of expression

This right has been invoked by publishers of pornographic magazines in recent months, who claim freedom of expression extends to the explicit depiction of genitalia

Signs of change have been a distinct decline in the number of publications banned by the existing board.

While the board's weekly list of banings used to be comprehensive, on more than one occasion in past months the board has announced it has found "nothing undesirable" that week.

The task group which made the recommendations received more than 2 000 submissions and held hearings around the country

Reportedly, hearings in Cape Town were dominated by religious groups strongly opposed to pornography.

Kobus van Rooyen, chairman of the group, was quoted saying it would not help to devise a law which was unconstitutional

Censorship law to be relaxed

APG 7/12/94
(243)

Naspers posts 50% surge in profits

243
ET 7/12/94

IN ITS first report to the market since listing three months ago, Nasionale Pers (Naspers) showed net profit growth of 50% for the six months to September 30, an increase of R10,9m on the corresponding period to R32,3m

Turnover for the period was 16% higher at R534,9m (R465,3m) while operating profit, after depreciation and interest paid, stood 24% higher at R52,9m (R42,6m).

Income derived from investments and associated companies was R4,8m — R2,1m less than in the corresponding period, bringing the profit to R57,4m (R49,2m). A lower tax burden of R25m as against R27,5m in the corresponding half-year and a lower payment to outside shareholders from subsidiaries' profits brought net profit to R32,3m

However, Naspers' interest in the retained income of subsidiaries, mainly M-Net and Multichoice, produced a loss of R966 000 compared to a profit of R8,6m a year ago. The net profit attributable to shareholders was consequently only marginally higher than in the corresponding six

months — R31,3m against R30m

This represents an earnings growth of only 4% from 27c to 28c a share. However, if the interest in associated companies is excluded, earnings per share rose 52,6% to 29c (19c)

The balance sheet shows great inherent strength. Total assets, after deducting operating liabilities of R176,6m, stood 26,8% higher at R616,6m. The net asset of the 111,4m shares in issue increased 28,4% from 356c to 457c a share

In line with company policy, no dividend has been declared at the halfway mark.

Naspers chairman Ton Vosloo said the group had budgeted for modest growth after the exceptional results achieved in the previous year. All the main divisions — Newspapers, Magazines, Bookpublishers and Printers — returned results ranging from satisfactory to good

The Boekhandel group had continued its recovery and was making a full contribution to overall profits

Vosloo said the losses in M-Net/Multichoice resulted from their overseas television investments and in the local cellular telephone industry.

Censorship may be liberalised

CF-8/12/94

(243)

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

PROPOSALS to liberalise the censorship laws will go before the cabinet early next year

Draft legislation to replace the Publications Control Act and other censorship laws offending the constitution's guarantee of free expression is being examined by Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

A spokesman for the ministry, Mr Hennie Meyer, said yesterday that after the cabinet had considered the bill, and possibly made amendments, it would be published in the Government Gazette for public comment.

The next step would be for the proposed legislation to be considered by the parliamentary select committee on Home Affairs before being sent to

the National Assembly and the Senate

South Africa could have a censorship system in line with most liberal democracies before the middle of the coming year

In its current form the draft legislation proposes a blanket ban on only four areas of publication

- Child pornography involving anyone under 16 or who looks under 16
- Bestiality.
- Extreme violence, including sexual violence such as rape.
- Promotion of religious hatred

The draft bill forms part of a report compiled by a task force of government, religious, academic and legal experts that was forwarded to Chief Buthelezi last week.

More than 2 000 forms of written or oral evidence were heard by the task force over the past four months

'50% local content not reasonable'

ET 8/12/194
JOHANNESBURG. —
The poor quality of local
music output makes
calls for 50% local con-
tent on music radio sta-
tions unreasonable, Cap-
ital Radio said
yesterday. (243)

In its written submis-
sion to the Independent
Broadcasting Authority,
the station said record
companies had pros-
pered by releasing
"cheap, badly-produced
recordings with no life
expectancy".

"A realistic percent-
age should be agreed to
so that standards can be
improved and record
companies be forced to
invest in and produce
talent and superior pro-
ductions". — Sapa

Star's independence 'is being threatened'

(243) Business Day Reporter

SUPPORTERS of Press freedom should protest against the threat to the editorial independence of The Star and potentially to all Argus newspapers, Freedom of Expression Institute deputy chairman Raymond Louw said at the weekend.

Reacting to the Star editor-in-chief Richard Steyn's resignation, he told Sapa the restructuring of Argus Newspapers under the guidance of its foreign owner, Irishman Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers, had led to the shock resignation of one of the country's finest editors.

Steyn said on Friday that he and Argus Newspapers CE John Featherstone differed in principle over how newspapers should be run. **BD 12/12/94**

"Supported by the new major shareholder, he is in the process of restructuring Argus Newspapers in order to make editors report to regional MDs. I do not believe the proposed new structure, which also provides for a group editorial director (British journalist Ivan Fallon), to be appropriate for The Star or its journalists."

He would leave the company at the end of January. Featherstone had earlier announced the appointment of Pretoria News editor Deon du Plessis as Argus MD for PWV operations from February 1.

Star GM Graeme King becomes GM of "the expanded business".

Argus PWV editors and managers will report to Du Plessis — an effective demotion for Steyn. However, Featherstone

To Page 2

Star (243) BD 12/12/94

From Page 1

said: "Editors will continue to have absolute authority and sole responsibility for the content — both editorial and advertising — of their newspaper."

"These changes bring us into line with the restructured Argus group in Natal and the Cape, and provide us with a platform to expand and grow our business."

Louw, a former Rand Daily Mail editor,

said the Argus restructuring had already led to retrenchments. Steyn's resignation should serve as a signal that management was more interested in profits than in protecting free and independent speech.

The institute believed financial pressures on newspapers and the inherent conflict between editors and financial managers would lead to the erosion of newspapers' editorial independence.

Media protest

at the Star

CT 15/12/94

JOHANNESBURG. — More than 100 journalists and media workers staged a lunch-time demonstration outside the offices of the Star here yesterday, to protest against what they termed increased management interference in editorial affairs. (243)

The Star's South African Union of Journalists (SAUJ) branch co-ordinator, Ms Claire Gebhardt, said: "When editorial and commercial interests clash, commercial interests take over."

— Sapa

Star and Sowetan staff stage picket

BY JOVIAL RANTAO

About 80 journalists and media workers from the The Star and the Sowetan held a lunch-hour picket in Johannesburg yesterday against what they said was management interference in editorial affairs.

The Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa) and the South African Union of Journalists (SAUJ) co-ordinated yesterday's demonstration outside The Star's offices, which followed Friday's unexpected resignation of editor-in-chief of The Star Richard Steyn.

Steyn resigned because he differed with Argus Newspapers chief executive John Featherstone "on how newspapers should best be run."

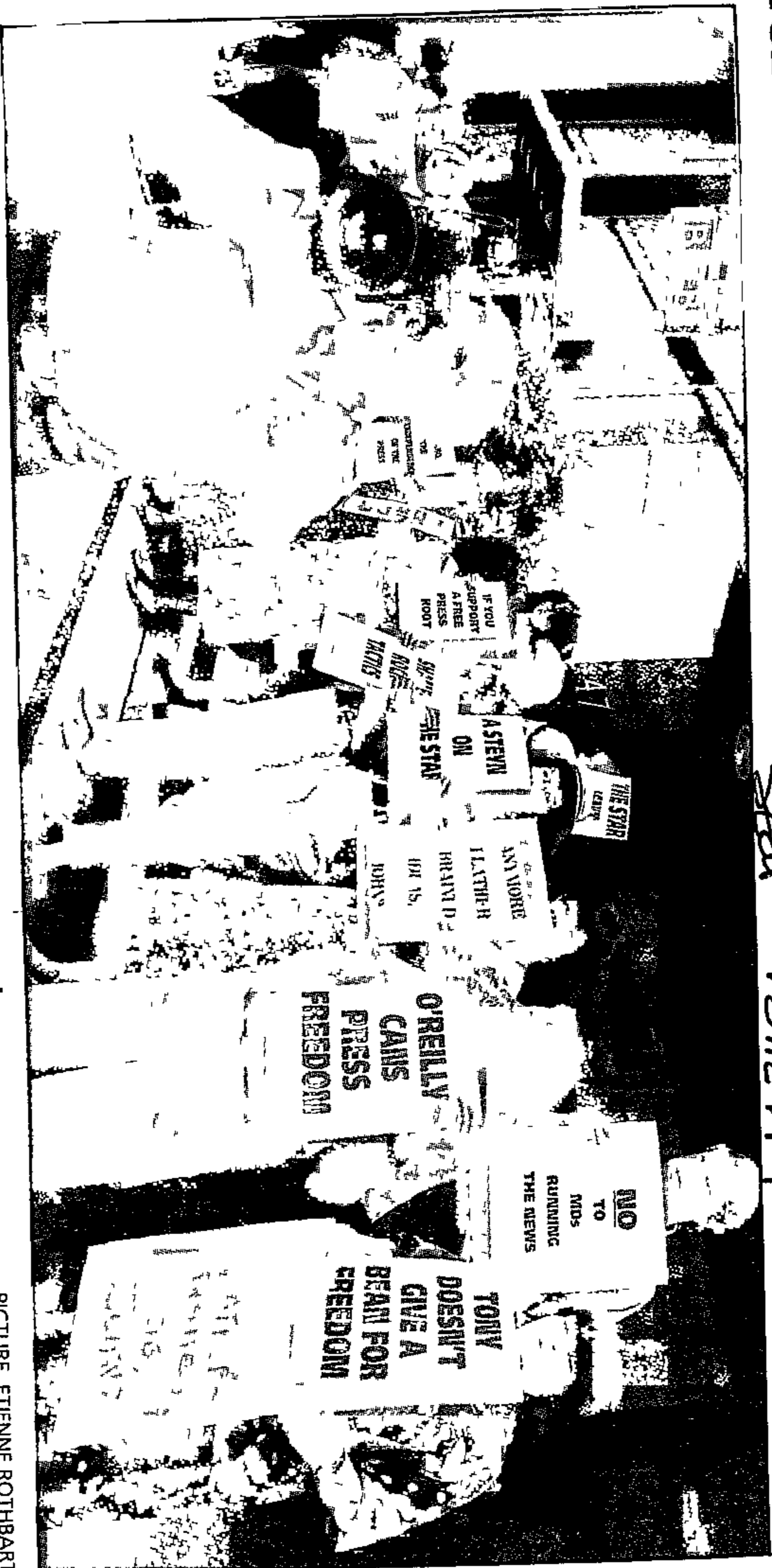
Steyn did not think that a restructuring "in order to make editors report to regional directors" was appropriate.

Peter Sullivan has since been promoted to editor of The Star, with responsibility for the WeekendStar, from January 1.

He will report to new managing director of the Gauteng operations of Argus Newspapers, Deon du Plessis, from February 1, on issues of company policy.

Mwasa's southern Transvaal secretary Thabo Leshilo said the restructuring would sacrifice journalists' integrity for the commercial interests of Argus.

"The regional MDS' brief is to advance the interests of share-



Fight for press freedom . . . picketers outside The Star building yesterday.

holders. It will now be possible for them to dictate to editors not to pursue certain stories which put the newspapers' advertisers in a bad light.

"At worst, we as reporters will no longer be believed by the public, which will see us only as lackeys of the advertisers," Leshilo said.

The SAUJ's Star branch co-ordinator Claire Gebhardt stressed that the lunchtime protest was not about personalities or a vote of no-confidence in Argus editor **243**.

"In the past, editors reported to a board which was distanced from the hurly-burly of commercial interests

"Now they are being asked to report to someone whose success will be judged on a daily basis commercial success on a daily basis.

When editorial and commercial interests clash, there is the danger that commercial interests may predominate."

Gebhardt said the protest was also about the "elimination of

the editor-in-chief of one of the country's largest daily newspapers without consultation or negotiation.

"We're asking for top-level guarantees of editorial independence. We also want the role of the regional MDS spelt out, and in what circumstances an editor can bypass them," she said.

PICTURE ETIENNE ROTHBART

Media owners 'stifling'

Political Staff

BLOEMFONTEIN. — The ownership and management of the media as well as socio-economic problems did not allow for a free flow of information and comment on society, the ANC resolved yesterday.

It also called on the ANC to promote the diversification of media ownership and management.

Delegates decided unanimously at its national conference here its NEC should investigate the situation and draw up broad policy.

The conference said the NEC should

draft policy regarding changing the SA Communication Services and the place, role and size of the public broadcaster as well as other matters being investigated by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. CT 22/12/94

It also decided the NEC should decide on the role of provinces regarding public media and the approach towards diversifying ownership and control of the media.

"These policies should help guide the relevant ministries as well as our parliamentary representatives," the resolution said. (243)

Row brews as censorship report is kept under wraps

MARK ASHURST

A ROW is brewing over the forthcoming Film and Publications Bill. The Bill will be considered by the Cabinet next month even though the report of the government task group set up to review censorship policy has not been made public.

Freedom of Expression Institute co-ordinator Jeanette Minnie said yesterday. "There is a lack of transparency in the process. We do not know what is in the report, so we cannot know which parts of the Bill come from the government, or how much it was influenced by the task group which undertook quite a lot of consultation."

The task group on film and publications control submitted its recommendations for the Bill to Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi early last week.

Task group secretary Tinuf O'Neill said the information in the report was "of such a nature that only the Minister can decide whether to release it for public consumption. . . . I doubt very much (that the report will be made public)."

Buthelezi would consider the task group's recommendations before presenting a draft Bill for Cabinet discussion. But Minnie said failure to disclose the report would prevent valuable input from the public and the media.

Home Affairs communications director Henny Meyer said the draft Bill would be published "for comment" in the Government Gazette, according to protocol. Once the Cabinet had approved the Bill, the length of time available for comment would depend on public response.

Presses to stop as South loses its brave fight

GLYNNIS UNDERHILL
Weekend Argus Reporter

OWNERS of South, the Cape Town independent weekly newspaper launched in 1986 as a voice for the oppressed, are applying to place it under provisional liquidation.

The major shareholder, the Ukwaziswa Trust, took the decision to apply for the provisional liquidation of South Press Services at a meeting yesterday.

In a statement issued by the directors of South Press Services and the Trustees of Ukwaziswa Trust, it was announced that the steps had been taken with the "greatest regret, but in the belief that it is in the best interests of the staff of South and its creditors."

Initially, South was formed through a loan from the trust and the statement said that other creditors should not show a loss.

The trust expressed its appreciation of the valuable contribution which South's funders, particularly the Inter-church Organisation for Development

Co-operation, which had supported the newspaper, had made.

"The trustees paid tribute to the staff of South for their dedication, courage and sacrifice in maintaining an independent and critical voice in Cape Town during the last years of the apartheid regime."

The statement said that the step of applying for liquidation of the company was taken "with the knowledge of the staff."

By Thursday this week, editor Rafiq Rohan said no final or firm decisions had been made about the future of staff.

"We haven't decided what will happen to South. For all intents and purposes, we are looking at and exploring all options," he said.

Mr Rohan said South had been "clearly experiencing difficulties in the financial department", but all options had not dried up.

The decision to apply for the liquidation of South Press Services would have no implications for the continued operation of Ukwaziswa Trust, according to the statement.

(243) ARGUS 24/12/94

Union to take TML to court

THE Eastern Cape branch of the SA Union of Journalists (SAUJ) is to take Times Media Limited to court over a wage dispute.

SAUJ Eastern Cape deputy president Mr Ed Collis said in a statement the TML's wage offer of 10,5% in the Eastern Cape instead of the 11,75% agreed upon at a national TML bargaining forum early this month "was a display of bad faith"

The union held an urgent meeting on Friday and agreed to take management to court (243)

"We have met with lawyers to take appropriate actions, which could include the serving of an urgent Supreme Court interdict on the company over the Christmas weekend," Mr Collis said OT 27/12/94

He said the SAUJ had no alternative course of action to take because of the timing of the announcement by the TML "two days before Christmas".

TML management could not be reached for comment Sapa

'Deadliest year for journalists'

(243)

CT 28/12/94

BRUSSELS. — At least 114 journalists were killed in sometimes gruesome circumstances, making it the deadliest year for reporters ever, the International Federation of Journalists, said yesterday.

In 1991, the Brussels-based federation listed 84 dead worldwide

This year, it registered "at least 114 confirmed cases of violent death, some in gruesome circumstances", a federation statement said. It added that 15 other killings and reports of journalists gone missing were still being investigated.

Twelve journalists and five news team members also died in vehicle accidents while on the job this year.

More than half of all journalists who died this year were reporting on the ethnic unrest in Rwanda and on Algeria's violent showdown between Muslim fundamentalists and the military-backed government.

Forty-eight journalists from the eth-

nic "Hutus and Tutsis died crushed by the conflict" in Rwanda, and in Algeria 19 journalists were killed, according to a federation tally.

"But the mafia and political terrorists also claimed their toll, notably in Russia and Latin America, where journalists have been brutally assassinated," the statement said.

The federation plans to provide guidelines for journalists' safety to encourage the media, unions and governments to act.

"Freedom of the press is not, in terms of democracy, a marginal problem because without freedom of the press there is no democracy," the federation concluded.

● Two South African photographers died violently earlier this year. They were The Star's chief photographer, Ken Oosterbroek, and freelance AP photographer Abdul Shariff, who both died of gunshot wounds during township clashes on the Reef — Sapa-AFP

PRESS -

1995

Our cartoonist Zapiro is on leave. This is an example of his previous work which we will publish until he returns.

focus on **Information**

Sowetan 5/1/95

243

INFORMATION IS one of the major pillars of any society. It is only by having access to information that people can make proper and informed decisions about their lives.

Unlike the old regime, the new Government recognises this. It plans to table a Freedom of Information Bill in Parliament next month.

The media is eagerly awaiting this Bill, and will discuss it at a conference co-hosted next month by Rhodes University's journalism department and the Institute for Multiparty Democracy.

Writing in the MPD's latest newsletter, *Daily Dispatch* editor Professor Gavin Stewart strongly comes out in support of a Freedom of Information Act.

"Our new governors and a whole range of new constituencies are not at all sure we can be trusted with the power we have — whether or not we think of it as power," he notes.

"(But our) journalistic reflex says they cannot be trusted with the power they have. We would like to see our access to information made enforceable by a Freedom of Information Act."

Stewart makes a crucial point. Such a law would not only benefit the media but would also greatly benefit the public at large.

"Such an Act would not only, or even primarily, protect journalists, who would have no more privileges than any other citizen.

"What we should seek to create and protect is the public right of access to information about government. And the right and duty of public servants to provide such information."

Mr Allister Sparks, director of the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism, agrees.

"When we ask for a Freedom of Information Act, we are not asking for any special privileges for our particular industry," he writes in the same MPD newsletter.

"We are asking for no more than every individual citizen's democratic right to know what the people he elected to government are doing.

"And that is a fundamental democratic right. To be informed. Without it there can be no democracy."

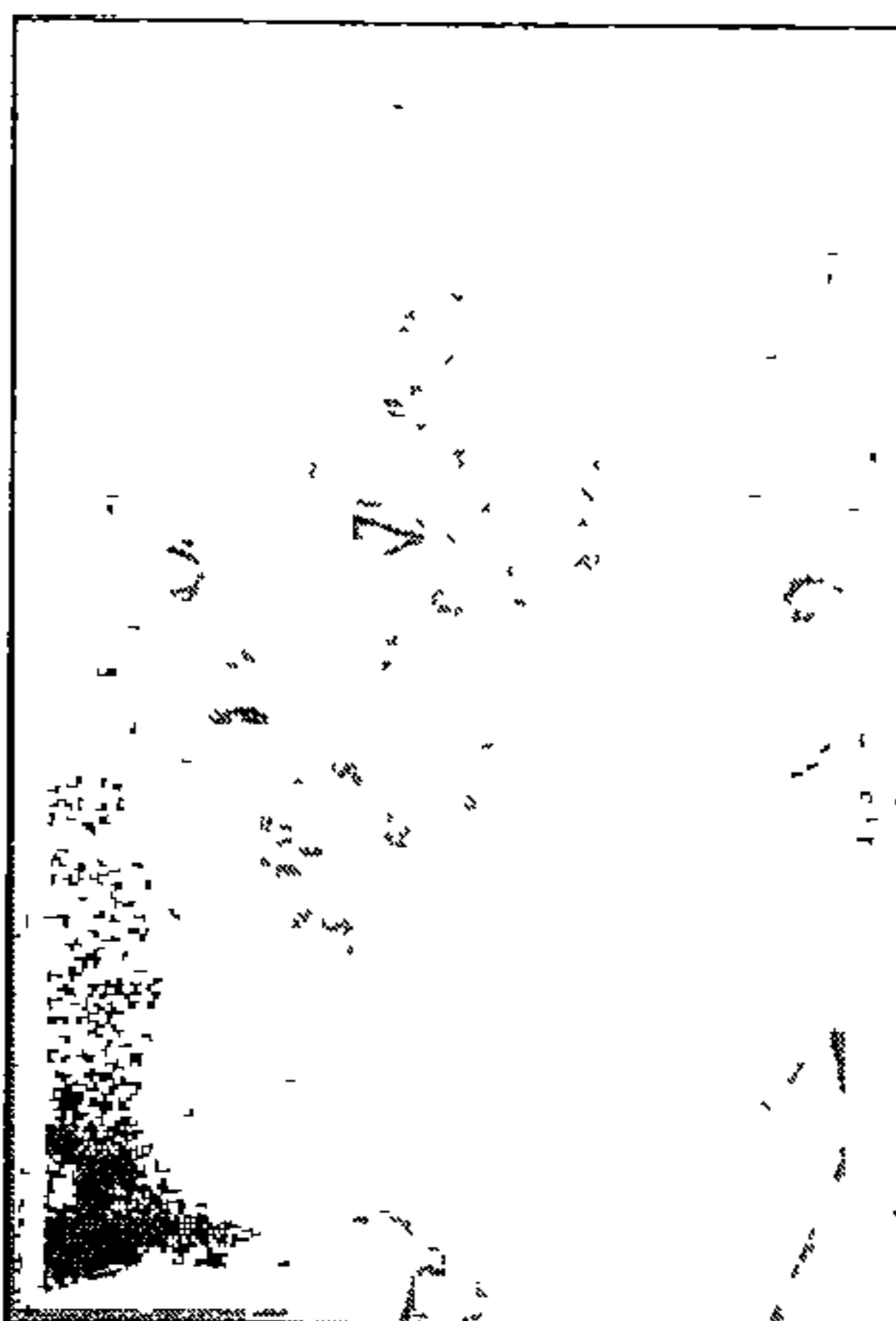
This is where the media comes in. "We have to be the eyes and ears of the citizenry. That is our democratic role, our Fourth Estate duty.

"It follows from this that a free media is the lifeblood of a modern democracy. If there is no media freedom there can be no democracy, because the citizenry cannot be adequately informed. It is then subject to indoctrination, manipulation and despotism."

While Sparks commends the clause in the new constitution which guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of the media, he feels that this does not go far enough.

"One can guarantee freedom of speech but

Just a month before the planned tabling of the Freedom of Information Bill in Parliament, **Tyrone August** takes a look at discussions surrounding the issue:



Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, who first announced plans for a Freedom of Information Act, will attend a conference next month to discuss the new law.

still deny information," he cautions. "Censorship can take two forms: It can prohibit publication or it can withhold information at source."

And no matter how well-intentioned or benevolent a Government is, the temptation is always there to resort to censorship of one kind or another.

As Stewart puts it: "With power comes all the temptations that accompany it. The bright smoke of election promises is not easily conjured into reality."

"When journalists begin to peer up the sleeves of the conjurer and intrude behind the curtains, the liberators are soon irritated."

"The souring of the relationship is beset with all sorts of complications."

Because of this danger, believes Stewart, legal mechanisms are necessary to minimise these complications.

According to Sparks, what this would mean in practice is that each Ministry or Government office sets up an information access office.

A journalist or any other citizen can then make a written application to see any document in that Government department or agency.

If that department does not have the information, the request must automatically be transferred to the right department or agency.

"Your request can only be refused if the material you want falls in the limited category of restricted information, and this decision can only be taken by a designated official," Sparks suggests.

He also touches on another important part of the debate: The responsibility which a Freedom of Information Act places on the media.

"If we claim it is our right to serve the democratic process by keeping the citizenry informed, then we must be true to that role," he observes. "We must exercise it responsibly and competently."

He does not spell out what this means but does argue that this includes the training and upgrading of journalists.

In fact, he even goes as far as to call for this to be incorporated in a legally binding clause in a Freedom of Information Act.

Sparks points out that Australia already has such a law (the Training Guarantee Act), which forces companies to allocate a percentage of their wage bills to training programmes.

"Training, after all, is not a privilege," he argues, "it is a right."

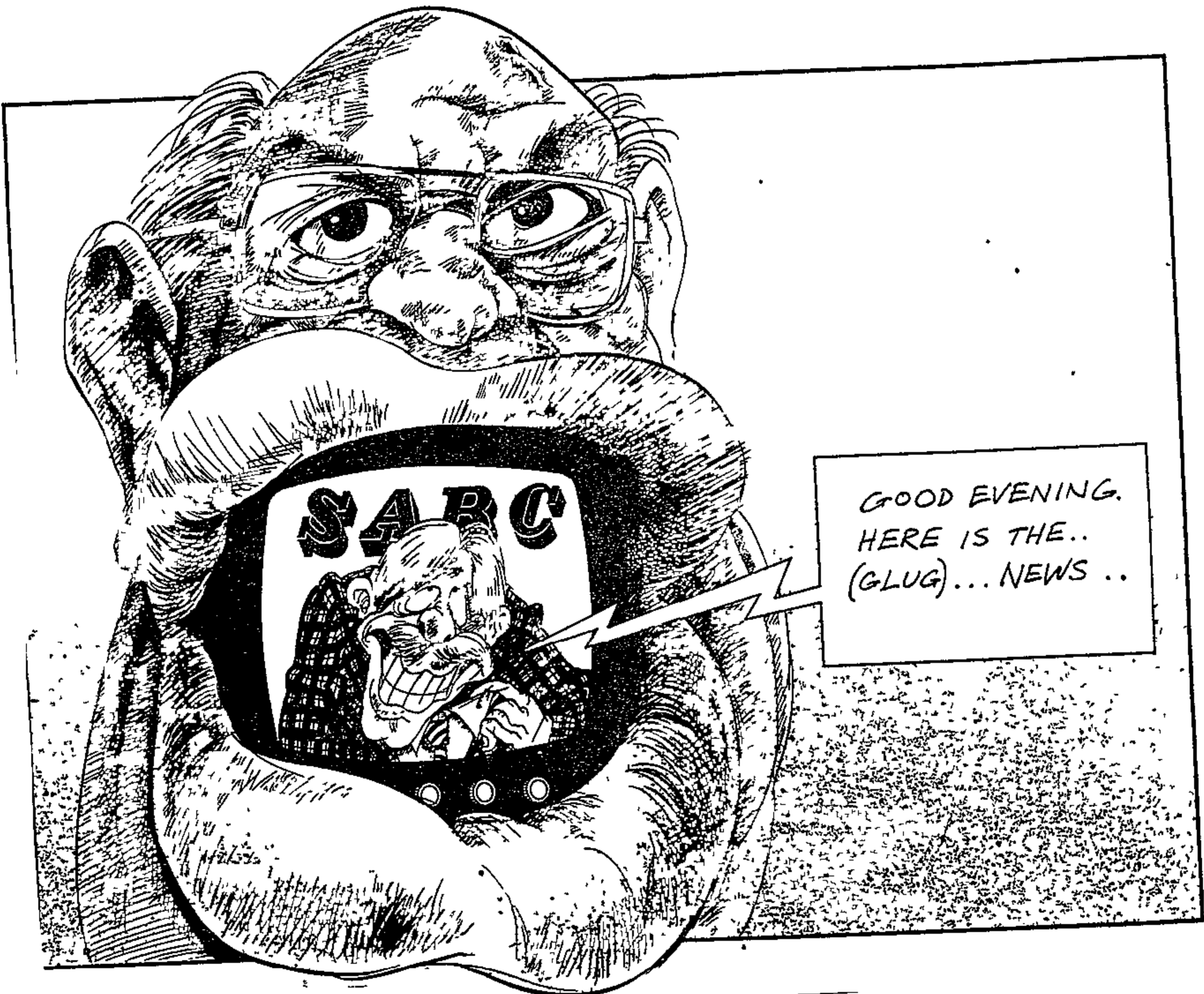
With concern, he points to the "juniorisation" of local newsrooms and to an increase in the workload of journalists.

"If we succeed in a plea for a Freedom of Information Act, those workloads will increase," he writes. "The error rate, already unacceptably high, will soar even higher."

These are the kinds of issues that the February conference will have to grapple with. It will need to strive for a balance between rights and responsibilities.

The debates are bound to be tense, and even acrimonious at times, but this is unavoidable. Now that media freedom is a little closer, we must reach out for it firmly.

● Those interested in attending the Freedom of Information Conference, which will be held in Grahamstown from February 7 to 9, can contact Louisa Clayton at (0461) 24032.



Long Walk on a short cut to bestseller list

PATRICK FARRELL
Staff Reporter

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela's autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom* is on a short run to best-seller status.

The book, released in South Africa on December 15, has sold out at book stores across the country, usually within hours stocks arriving

Fleur McFarlane, manager of Exclusive Books in Claremont, said they sold 120 copies "within an hour" on Saturday.

"This was our third shipment and we have another 400 coming in February."

She said people were prepared to pay for the R79,95 book upfront to reserve copies.

"In my 30 years in the book business the demand for this book is unique," she said

This was echoed by CNA director of books Hayden Watkins who said "We have sold all 20 000 copies we got and we are shipping in another 6 500. It is really unbelievable."

He said in his experience there had never been such demand for an autobiography.

The book is number one on the CNA bestseller list.

While the demand has made copies scarce, the good news is that the publishers Macdonald Purnell will keep supplying copies until "demand is satisfied".

Peter Matthews, managing director of Macdonald Purnell, said 85 000 copies had been sold in Britain since it was released on November 30.

"By the end of January, 64 000 copies would have been sold in this country," he said.

"In my 25 years in the book selling business I've never come across a book doing so well so quickly



LONG ROAD: Nelson Mandela's book selling well

here," he said.

He said 20 000 copies were sold in South Africa the day the book was released.

He ascribed the popularity of the book to Mr Mandela's "fantastic life"

Much was written secretly on Robben Island at night and President Mandela played truant from work in the quarry so he could sleep during the day.

He wrote up to 10 pages a night and would pass them on to colleagues Mac Maharaj and Isu Chiba who would encrypt them using very small writing

Mr Maharaj smuggled his copy of the manuscript off the island and it was sent to Britain where it was decoded and typed.

Mr Mandela's hand-written script was hidden in cocoa tins and buried on the island. But one of the tins was found by the authorities and led to the suspension of his study privileges for four years

ARE

10/1/95

243

Newspaper staff bitter about lack of retrenchment packages

ARG 14/1/95

243

Weekend Argus Labour Reporter

SOUTH newspaper staff returning to work after the festive season break expected to hear the terms of their retrenchment packages but were sent home empty-handed

The weekly newspaper was placed in liquidation last month

Staffers complained bitterly they had never been officially informed of the liquidation but had to read about it in opposition newspapers

There was also no warning that they could end up with no January pay, let alone a retrenchment package.

The staff complaints directly contradict a statement by South Press Services at the time the liquidation was announced on December 23.

The statement said. "The trustees paid tribute to the staff of South for their dedication, courage and sacrifice in maintaining an independent and critical voice in Cape Town during the last years of the apartheid regime

"They added that the step of applying for liquidation of the company was taken with the knowledge of the staff"

Trustee Essa Moosa said yesterday the newspaper had been dependent on foreign funding which "substantially dried up" about a year ago

Realising the newspaper had to become self-sufficient or close down, a desperate attempt to save the company was made by launching a knock-and-drop tabloid — South-Easter — just before the election

Although South-Easter had performed well, it had proved incapable of saving the mother publication

"We agonised over how to retain both papers," Mr Moosa said

Negotiations were set in motion with the Sowetan but fell through

"We were in a quandary because we had debts to be paid and the organisation had no money

"Our only other option was to put the company into liquidation and then see

if we could not get someone interested in acquiring South-Easter together with retaining some of our staff

"What's been done now is that the trustees have asked the directors to try to get a consortium together to buy out the newspaper

"With regard to the staff, we are trying to raise funds to give some sort of retrenchment package I do not want to raise expectations but the chances look fairly good," Mr Moosa said

South-Easter was a good project which could possibly sustain itself and become a viable business option, he added

The owner of the building which housed South, Ebrahim Borat, said he preferred not to comment, other than to say in terms of the Liquidations Act the liquidators had the right to retain the premises for three months

■ South's trustees included beleaguered former ANC regional leader Allan Boesak and Jakes Gerwel of the president's office

The gun is quicker than the pen for journalists worldwide who face...

Censorship by AK-47

CP 22/1/95

2143

WHEN Pallo Jordan debates the future of the press with eminent foreign and local editors at a three-day conference in Grahamstown next month, the participants should take note of a disturbing worldwide trend - the increasing assassination of journalists. Deputy Editor ZB MOLEFE reports on this trend documented in the International Press Institute's latest World Press Review.

LAST year there was a disturbing increase in a worldwide phenomenon which has left journalists both in mourning and in a state of utter bewilderment, says International Press Institute (IPI) director Johann Fritz.

This terrifying phenomenon is the rise of murderers of media members by groups or individuals in countries whose constitutions specifically guarantee press freedom and freedom of expression.

In Algeria, for instance, 24 journalists have been assassinated by Islamic fundamentalists since May 1993.

Fritz describes the slaughtering of journalists in Algeria as "a terrifying bloodbath for both the press and the nation at large".

Last year, when 15 media workers were killed in Algeria, about 200 journalists fled into exile. Fritz writes: "They describe this desperate measure as 'like dying a little'. Those who chose to remain in Algeria are

forced to change addresses constantly and avoid the use of bylines in daily fear of their lives."

The worldwide use of violence against journalists was also highlighted in October 1994 when Russian journalist Dmitri Kholodov (27) was assassinated.

He was killed when he opened a briefcase which he believed contained evidence of Russian Army corruption - but it turned out to contain a bomb.

"This is censorship with fists, clubs, knives, brass knuckles, Kalashnikovs and explosives. Freedom of speech in Russia is the subject of terror," thundered the leading Russian newspaper *Izvestia*.

In the Philippines - where President Fidel Ramos professes a commitment to press freedom and where this freedom is enshrined in law - three journalists were killed during 1994, bringing to 12 the number murdered under the Ramos administration.

The picture in Latin America is also grim. In one gruesome incident in

Guatemala the wife and step-daughter of a columnist were murdered in January last year. Though there was no evidence of state involvement, their bodies were said to have shown signs of being tortured.

In February 1994 Oliviero Munoz Barrios, director of the Guatemalan radio station Radio Nacional de San Marcos, was stabbed to death in his home.

In September 1994 another radio journalist was shot dead.

"What makes these killings - and those in other Latin American nations such as Mexico - more depressing is the fact that the Presidents of these countries signed the historic Declaration of Chapultepec at the Hemisphere Conference on Free Speech in Mexico in March 1994 - a declaration to which the IPI was also a signatory," notes Fritz.

Africa also does not escape the IPI spotlight. Last year, for instance, there were extremely worrying developments in Nigeria. The military regime not only closed down three of Nigeria's largest newspaper groups in 1994 but detained publisher-businessman Chief Moshood Abiola, an IPI Executive Board member - despite the fact that a court had ordered his release.

In Turkey last year bombs destroyed the Istanbul and Ankara offices of a Kurdish daily

newspaper. President Demirel condemned the bombings, but observed the IPI, "but journalists at the paper blamed state agents for the attacks."

Reading the IPI's review of 135 countries worldwide it becomes clear that the media, on their mission to expose the truth, are faced with many - sometimes terrifying - obstacles.

A selection of these obstacles makes disturbing readings:

■ **South Africa:** Warning: Keeping Force members and hostel inmates at

in 1994 as some ANC leaders, notably Defence Minister Joe Modise, tried to bar a newspaper from gaining access to sensitive defence information and others accused the press of hidden agendas when it reported government excesses and failures.

Political violence also took its toll among journalists. In one tragic incident Star photographer Ken Oosterbroek was shot dead in a crossfire between National Peace

keepers and hostel inmates at

Thokozwa, while freelance photographer Greg Mamonoth was wounded in the chest and Reuters photographer Jada Ngwenya was hit in the arm.

■ **Swaziland:** On January 3 1994 three journalists working for the *Swazi Observer*, a state-controlled newspaper, received anonymous death threats after the publication of opposition criticism of the Prime Minister's plans to buy a fleet of luxury cars.

■ **Botswana:** It has always been harder for a professional local reporter to obtain an interview with the authorities than for foreign correspondents. This is because Botswana officials have always viewed the independent local press with suspicion. The government is now worried about its "international image" - at the expense of the local one.

■ **Uganda:** Editors and publishers of Uganda's independent newspapers in 1994 condemned attempts by President Yoweri Museveni's government to introduce "dracoid" measures to muzzle the press.

■ **United Kingdom:** Two glimmers of light on the freedom front in 1994 revealed the continuing gloom of recent years: threats to introduce new legal curbs on the press in the UK. In a landmark judgement in May, the European Commission of Human Rights ruled that

the British High Court had broken the European convention on Human Rights when it ordered a journalist to reveal his confidential source.

■ **United States:** Right cases involving foreign journalists murdered on US soil while pursuing news stories remain unresolved since 1980. A report released in November 1994 by the Committee to Protect Journalists documented 12 cases of journalists' assassinations in the US which, it said, were directly related to their work.

■ **Zaire:** The opposition press in Zaire was brutally repressed during 1994. On September 10, Zaire's Press and Information Minister announced a new tax on newspaper publishing. He also asked editors to "observe professional ethics" in their work and spoke of the use of "emergency" procedures - which some in media circles have been taken as a veiled threat that the government could step in to close newspapers if what they publish is not to the authorities' liking.

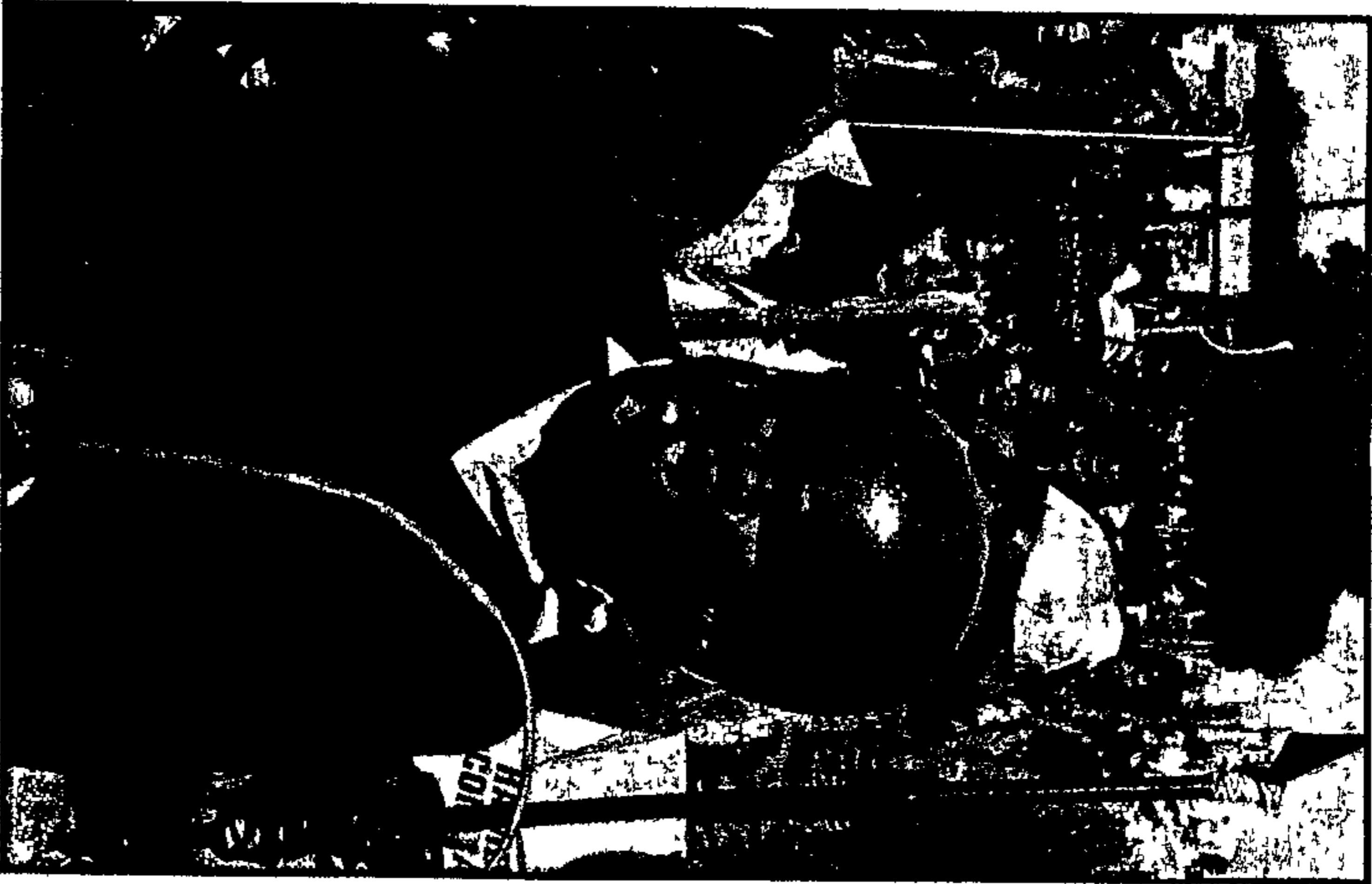
■ **Zambia:** Independent journalists struggled to do their job in Zambia in 1994 in the face of considerable harassment from the regime of President Frederick Chiluba.

■ **Zimbabwe:** At least one Zimbabwean newspaper closed down in 1994 in an increasingly harsh political climate.

■ **Egypt:** Two journalists were murdered in 1994



CUT DOWN... Award-winning Star photographer Ken Oosterbroek was killed in a shootout in Thokozwa before the election.



DANGEROUS JOB... Journalists covering political violence in pre-election South Africa often had to contend with heavily-armed, hostile mobs and security forces.



NEWSPAPERS

Battle of the business dailies

243

FM 27/1/95

The opening salvos have been fired in a press war in which Argus Newspapers will be attacking its former stablemate, Times Media (TML), on several fronts. The most serious challenge comes in one of TML's major strongholds, the business publication arena, but it is also taking on the *Sunday Times* with a magazine inserted in its weekend newspapers. *The Star's* new midweek jobfinder supplement seems also to challenge the *Sunday Times's* hold on job vacancy ads through *Business Times*.

Argus is to launch a daily business supplement, *Business Report*, which will be inserted into the *Cape Times*, *Natal Mercury*, *The Pretoria News* and the morning edition of *The Star*.

This may give it a circulation of 200 000.

Will this formula succeed and will it displace *Business Day* (circulation 35 000) in the affections of advertisers? Until more details are known, it is not possible to say, but there is much scepticism among ad agency media directors, who influence or control most advertising budgets. What *Business Day* delivers is a tightly focused audience of decision makers, while *Business Report* delivers the ordinary readership of its carrier newspapers, only a portion of whom (and in the case of *The Star*, a tiny portion) are business people.

"It is not a particularly good strategy to throw volume after quality," says Gordon Muller, media director of Saatchi & Saatchi, Klerck & Barrett. "Reaching the business decision maker is about quality of readers, not circulation. I am surprised they are going this route."

To succeed in Johannesburg, *Business Report* will have to bring about a fairly significant change in reading patterns, in which business people tend to read *Business Day* in the morning and *The Star* (for leisure and general news) in the evening.

"I don't believe people will change their reading habits," says Media Shop media director John Barham. "*Business Day* is entrenched in the marketplace. It is a good, snappy, quick read and overview. It delivers the core readers you want to reach."

The new publication may have the edge in *Business Day's* areas of weakness, notably Cape Town and Durban. But if it is to succeed as a national newspaper, it has to achieve strength in the core market centred

on Johannesburg.

Obviously the quality of the new publication is vital, but as Elliot Schwartz, MD of ad agency SBBW observes, "absence of quality guarantees failure, but the presence of quality does not guarantee success." The



Bernie Rayner



Elliot Schwartz

appointment of an editor without experience as a business journalist is not necessarily a handicap, but it doesn't seem to be a strength.

In making *Business Report* a supplement, Argus Newspapers has chosen a route that involves smaller investment, but the lack of an identity could be a serious weakness. In London and New York, specialist business papers such as the *Financial Times* and *Wall Street Journal* are commercially far stronger than the business pages of competing quality dailies with bigger circulations. And the carriers of *Business Report*

can hardly be called quality newspapers.

"My biggest problem with it is that it is still part of a general interest newspaper, instead of being a dedicated business daily," says Mundel's media director Bernie Rayner. "It flies in the face of a trend towards niche publications."

Another critical question will be the advertising rate. It will have to be fairly high to support a circulation of around 200 000 without a cover price, though initially it is likely to be heavily discounted. "They will have to reduce their rates to lower than the current carrier publications or otherwise we will be paying for wastage," says Lindsay Smithers media director Tony Banahan.

To make inroads into the overtraded business market, the new paper will have to capture advertising from existing players and the first to suffer may not be *Business Day* but some of the weaker business publications, such as *Finance Week*. A bigger problem than competition for advertising, however, may be competition for readers' time.

Argus regional MD Deon du Plessis says it is too early to comment in detail. However, he says he is not sure the new publication will be positioned head-on against *Business Day*. "Johannesburg is the core market and you have to be there," he agrees. "But it will have a national flavour. It will enjoy an advantage in the centres other than Johannesburg. On present thinking it will be the full run of the three papers and part of *The Star*. We are not sure ourselves yet of many details, including the launch date."

Tony Koenderman

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Employing retired editors as part-time flagbearers may have paid off well in the past for public relations consultants Sussens Mann. But the policy has quietly been abandoned since nonexecutive directors and former *Star* editors Harvey Tyson and Rex Gibson criticised Argus Newspapers (a major client) for its attitude towards editorial independence.

"We don't believe it's appropriate for our directors to publicly criticise our clients or media colleagues," says MD Peter Mann. "They should have resigned first."

Tyson has resigned but Gibson hasn't yet. Neither will be replaced.

"Our policy was right for the time,"

says Mann. "We will still have Peter Maclean (former head of Argus' newspaper division) and Michael Green (former *Daily News* editor) who add enormous benefit and lustre to the board. But we have restructured to focus more on providing a service to our clients. Having a lot of heavyweight names with no line function does not aid that process."

"We have merged our Transvaal company with David Carte's specialist financial company, and we have identified five directors who will each handle eight or nine accounts. They will be hands-on working directors all defending income, with line responsibility and staff reporting to them."

Big changes face SA media industry

(243)
CF 31/1/95

Business Staff

ENORMOUS changes are taking place in SA's media industry — particularly in Cape Newspapers, which includes the Cape Times, The Argus and Unicorn Press

The new-look Cape Times will be launched on March 6 with its new national Business Report section, which will also appear in the morning editions of The Star and in the Natal Mercury and Pretoria News

The man directing the transformation is Ivan Fallon, former city editor of the Sunday Telegraph and deputy editor of the Sunday Times in



BREAKFAST CLUB

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE

Cape Times

Britain, for which he still writes a financial column

Fallon, who has written a biography of O'Reilly and two other bestsellers on the Saatchi brothers and James

Goldsmith, will speak at the next meeting of the Seeff/Cape Times Executive Breakfast Club on February 14

Among other comments on the media scene he will disclose plans for Cape Newspapers and how they will meet the demand for informed reporting on business

The breakfast will be at the Rotunda, Camps Bay, at 7.15am for 7.30am. Booking is essential through Sue or Sharon Tel 22-2444. The cost, payable in advance, is R58 with a discount for block bookings of 10 or more

Rival's coverage of events at Argus full of holes

ANXIOUS TML bares its fangs

(243) Show 4/2/95

TWO weeks ago, Business Day ran a full-page ad which tried to belittle The Star's business pages. Now it would seem that TML has decided to have a full editorial go at Argus, writes LOUIS DE VILLIERS.

THE Times Media campaign against Argus Newspapers has split over into the editorial pages of TML product the Sunday Times.

Late last year The Star refused to place a series of sniping TML advertisements for its daily Business Day. Two weeks ago, Business Day ran a full-page ad which tried to belittle The Star's business pages.

Over the past 10 days, though, it would seem that TML has decided to have a full editorial go at Argus, which is set to launch a business section in its morning newspapers nationwide. This may or may not be in direct competition with Business Day.

Disinformation

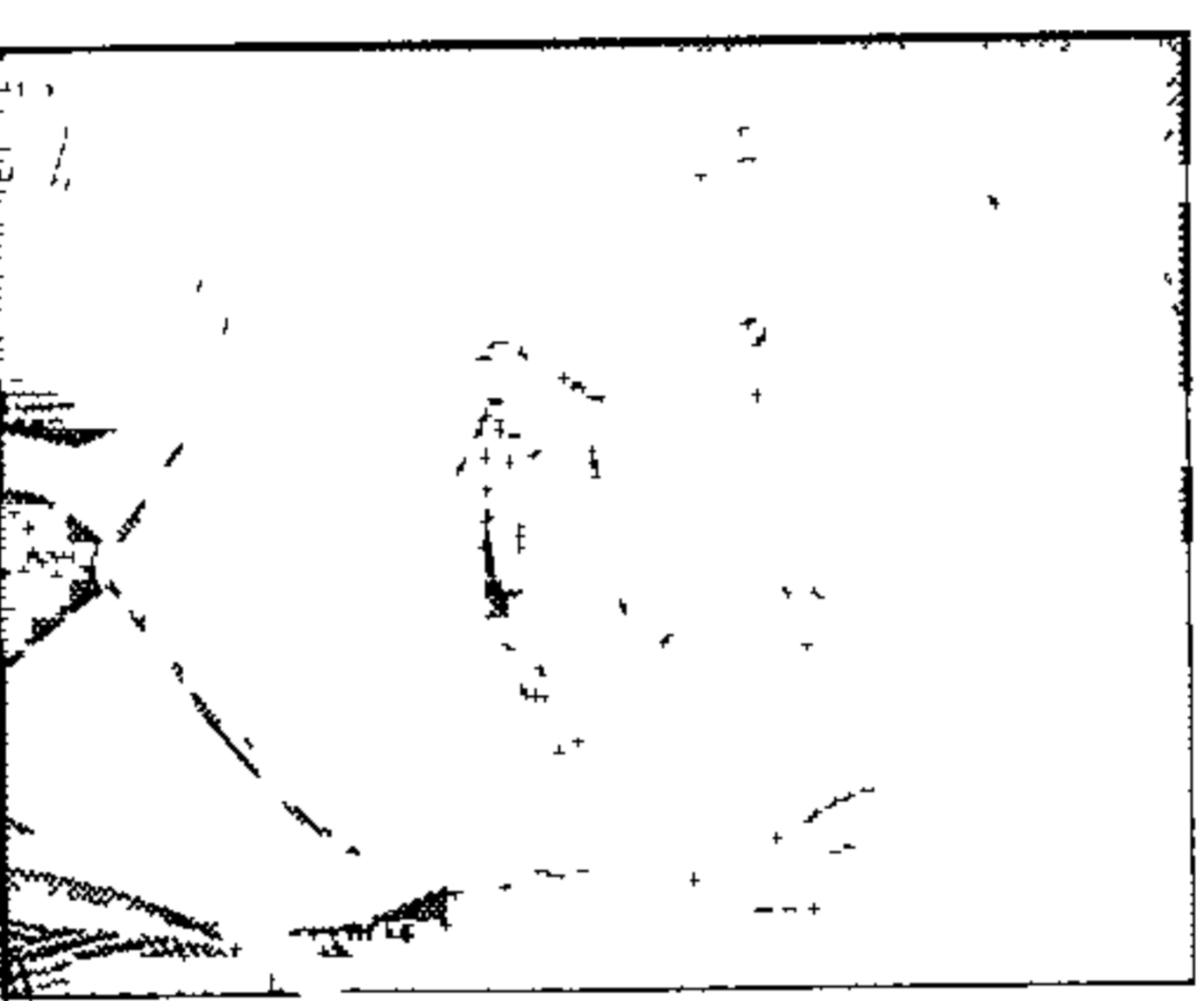
Sunday Times coverage of developments at Argus last weekend contained all the elements of a disinformation campaign.

The first is the omission of crucial facts.

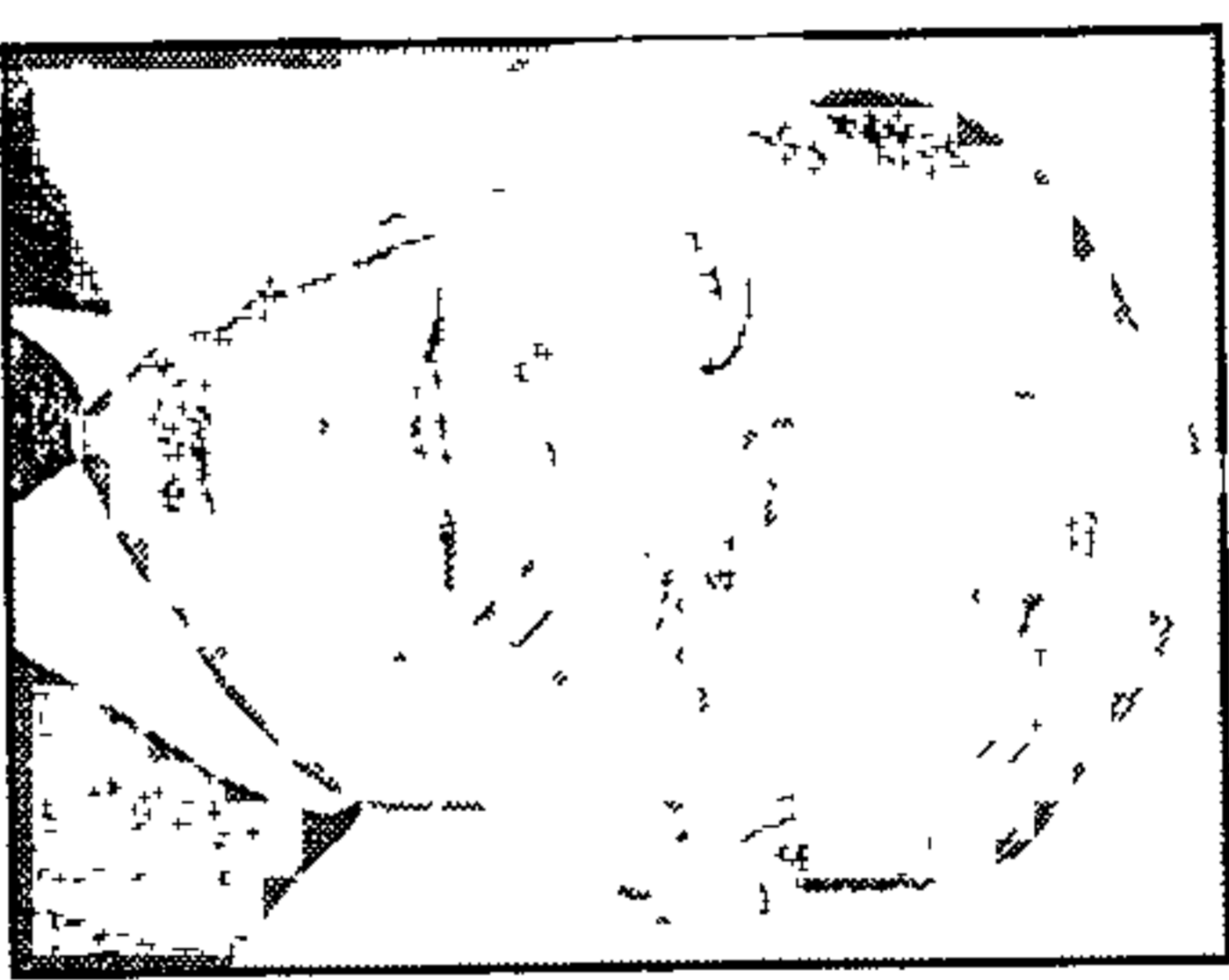
Showing a picture of the The Star edition which carried a wrap-around advertisement for OK Bazaars next to the headline "Dramatic crash at The Star", the paper's business section proclaimed "This is what happens when a newspaper's editor is subordinated to its management's commercial priorities".

The report fails to note that the wrap-around was also carried by City Press, which is owned by National Press, where there have been no management upheavals.

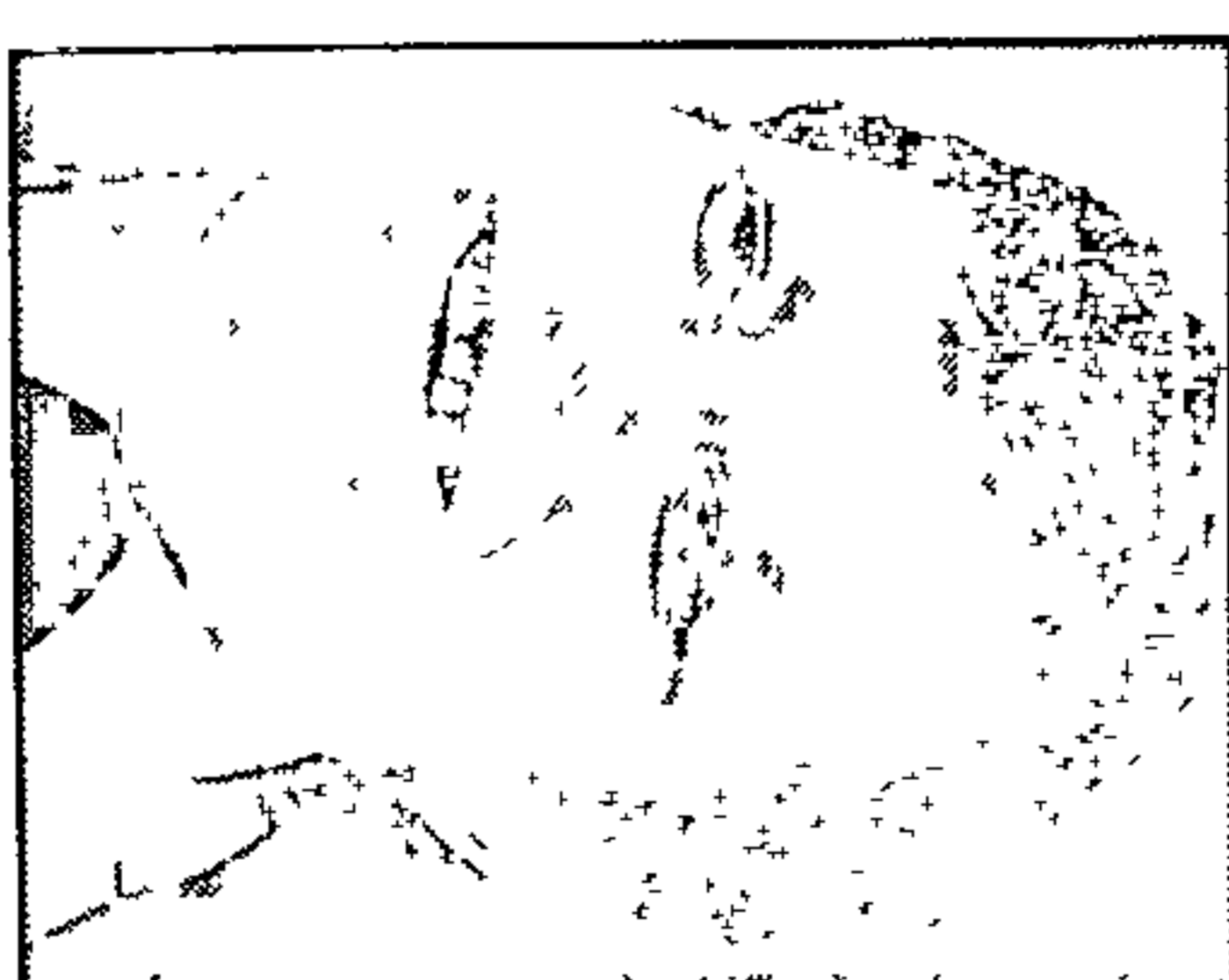
"The campaign was used exten-



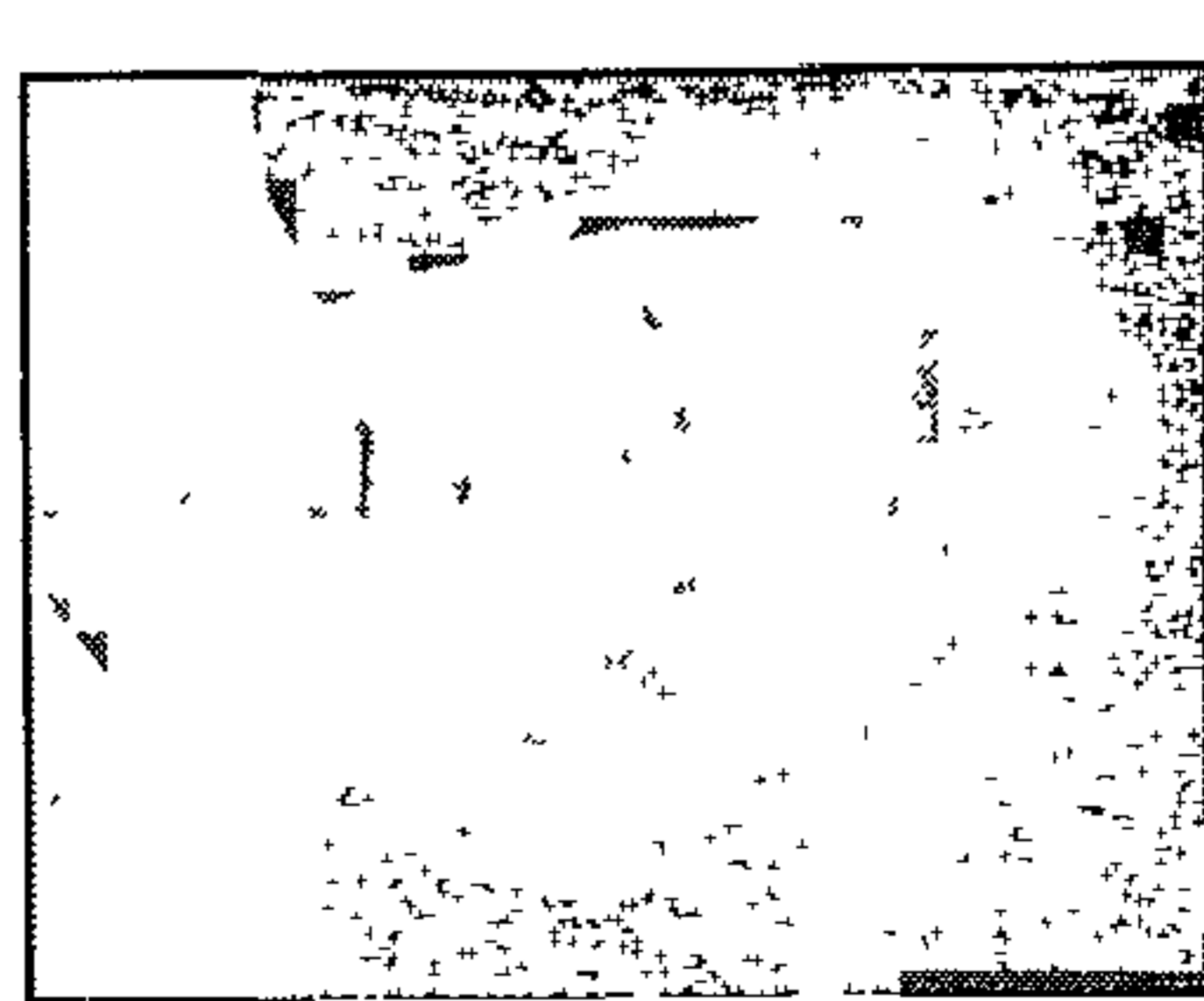
PETER SULLIVAN: Damned with faint praise by Owen



PAT RETIEF: Believes tempers should cool down



KEN OWEN: Leading the anti-Argus crusade



SHAUN JOHNSON: Described as a boyish young man

It's 'crass' only when others do it, it would seem

THE WeekendStar's recent coverage of the red mercury and Heidelberg sagas has so far consisted of little more than "wild tales... thinly sourced".

That was the opinion expressed last Sunday by Ken Owen, editor of the Sunday Times. "It's fun journalism," he said, "which no one takes seriously..."

Owen, striving in his column to define causes, said this was the result of a growing "corrosive effect of crassly commercial newspapers" in Argus.

It is said that with the onset of middle age, one of the first things to go is the memory. Owen is no exception, it seems. His

distaste forgets (it might be too unkind to say he left it out deliberately) to note his own newspaper's front page lead story of November 20 headlined "Armcor men 'put airliners at risk'".

The article referred to Armcor sanctioned passenger flights to smuggle dangerous chemicals to South Africa for

a ballistic missile programme. The reporter based his article on information supplied by an unnamed source who used to work for the corporation.

If the WeekendStar's "wild thinly sourced" reporting is the outcome of "crassly commercial newspapers", why isn't Owen's in this instance? Double standards, methinks.

This seems to underpin the fears of Argus researchers that while the Sabre research might be excellent, TML is in a position to juggle the figures to its own advantage.

The bottom line, suggests an Argus executive, is to keep TML figures in perspective — remember that, no matter how the spending power of the Business Day reader is punted, you can fit

the whole lot into Ellis Park and then some (it was calculated to have about 68 000 white, coloured and Asian readers by AMPS '94 in fairness, though, it also has 10 000 black readers — down

from 92 000 in 1993).

Here are the undiluted Sabre figures, as supplied by Media Director's Circle chairman Elana de Swart from Sonnenberg Murphy Leo Burnett.

According to the report, the South African business population is 177 000.

The Star, Mercury and Cape Times combined are read by 44.3 percent of these, compared with the 18.7 percent who read Business Day.

Business Day has a 15.6 percent reach potential among business people in Durban and the same in Cape Town.

Natal Mercury's reach potential in Durban is 63 percent, and the Cape Times' in Cape Town is 49 percent.

In Johannesburg, Business Day's business reach potential is 29 percent against The Star's 62 percent.

Says De Swart: "Business Day is well established and should not feel threatened."

Leading the anti-Argus crusade in the Sunday Times from the front was its editor Ken Owen.

Owen pontificated in a comment piece on the leader page about all the facts at hand — the resignation of Richard Steyn (which Steyn himself says was not reflected altogether accurately by Owen); the bust-up at Argus PR company Susseus Mann, which led to the resignation of former editors Harvey Tyson and Rex Gibson, the much-maligned OK advertising wrap-around, WeekendStar's coverage of red mercury and the Heidelberg revelations, the state of journalism in South Africa and so forth.

Owen got quite personal. He called Argus group editorial director Ivan Fallon "a boastful chap", while damning The Star editor Peter Sullivan and WeekendStar editor-in-waiting Shaun Johnson, with faint praise. He called them "two boyish young

men, both of extraordinary charm."

The crux of Owen's complaint about the events at Argus is that commercial managers had, ostensibly, assumed a supervisory role over editors.

An interesting event, though, occurred this week, which might, if one had to follow Owen's line of intent, be interpreted to have a bearing on the editorial independence of editors at Times Media.

On Tuesday Financial Mail editor Nigel Bruce was on the carpet before Pat Retief, the chairman of JCI, which controls TML. The reason? In what appears to be a career-limiting move, FM assistant editor David Gleason made a rather elementary mistake in oversteering the earnings of JCI directors.

Bruce denies that Retief's complaint had any bearing on his editorial independence.

Blood in the street

"We agreed to rectify the matter, while he agreed that the figures in the annual report should be able to stand alone. We did not grovel — he said an explanation would accompany the figures next year."

The FM made the same mistake Finance Week made in October — the latter rectified the mistake the following week.

Retief, who is also TML's chairman, meanwhile, believes tempers in the press world should cool down. "Sure we will compete but nobody will benefit if there is blood in the street."

Retief is weighing up the options of the role he could play in re-establishing cordial relations between South Africa's two major English press companies.

SA must be open society, says Mbeki

(243) Star 8/2/95

■ BY KAISER NYATSUMBA
POLITICAL EDITOR

Grahamstown — The Government of National Unity wanted to build a democratic system in the country which would ensure the greatest possible participation of the people in government and in changing their society, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said here last night.

Opening a three-day Freedom of Information conference at Rhodes University, Mbeki said it was critically important that the country's citizens were empowered to intervene in an informed way in their governance.

That, together with the country's past history of a closed society, was the reason the Interim Constitution obliged the Government to pass a Freedom of Information Act.

However, said Mbeki, such an Act by itself would not be sufficient. The Government would also have to adopt a proactive position to make information available to the public.

The media's role, he said, would be to inform and educate the public once the required legislation had been passed.

Mbeki said previous governments were as closed to those outside them as they were to those inside them, and it was therefore "inevitable that the new constitution would seek to address that point."

Scrap bar on public's right to know, urges conference

GRAHAMSTOWN — A constitutional limitation on the right to official information should be scrapped, legal academic Lene Johanssen told a conference on freedom of information here. (243)

Section 23 was "seriously flawed", said Ms Johanssen, a media specialist at the University of the Witwatersrand's Centre for Applied Legal Studies yesterday. Her view was echoed by other speakers, including Deputy Minister of Provincial Affairs Valli Moosa.

Section 23 guarantees the right to official information only if it is needed to exercise or protect one's rights.

Ms Johanssen said public access to information was essential to full democratic participation.

"People must be able to engage in public contestation of ideas, offer alternatives to proposed and official policies, and influence decisions that affect them."

Section 23 left too much scope for unwilling public servants to refuse or delay information. It should be amended to remove the requirement of proving one's motive for wanting information.

Mr Moosa said something had to be done about Section 23. The right to information needed to be widened when the Constitutional Assembly considered the final constitution.

Carmel Rickard, legal affairs specialist for the Sunday Times, said Section 23 had not served the media well — Sapa

'Serious' media problems in SA

Freedom of information 'necessary'

Political Staff

(243)

CT 9/2/95

GRAHAMSTOWN — South Africa's press was demanding access to information it did not have the resources or skills to deal with, veteran journalist Mr Allister Sparks said yesterday.

Reporting standards were at the lowest he had seen in his 44 years of journalism, he told a freedom of information conference here.

Newsrooms were being stretched to their limits and staffs in many cases were becoming more and more junior at a time that demands on them were increasing.

Vast areas of the country, such as some of the former homelands, were not covered by the press.

There were "serious" structural problems in the media which needed to be looked at if they were to play their proper role in a democracy. Reports that were inadequate,

Standards 'lowest in 44 years'

superficial or simply wrong would test the patience of the regime and its commitment to press freedom.

The press was the custodian of its own freedom. "If the government moves against the press and the public applauds, we're done for."

Sowetan political editor Mr Mathatha Tsedu said reporters in his newsroom were a "greenhorn squad". Seventy percent of them had less than two years' experience. The Sowetan had two staffers

in Parliament who had to cover six Constitutional Assembly theme committees, one of which had six sub-committees, every day.

The burden of trying to provide comprehensive news coverage had become more serious because the media were being used as a recruiting ground for communications experts for the new civil service.

In the past two years the Sowetan had lost an accumulated 70 years of experience to government headhunters.

Mr Tsedu said all the country's daily newspapers together reached less than five percent of the population. Even the Sowetan, the largest daily, reached only 1,6 million people.

If information was to be made available under a Freedom of Information Act it had to be asked how it was to reach the people — Sapa

GRAHAMSTOWN — The concentration of the ownership of the media in both government and private hands had to be addressed within the broader debate on freedom of information, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Frene Ginwala, said yesterday.

The advisability of allowing cross ownership of electronic and print media had to be considered, she said at the freedom of information conference here.

The right to information was necessary for the country's fledgling democracy.

Dr Ginwala said the civil service had been obsessed with secrecy and were even wary of providing information to other organs of the state.

Freedom of information 'may become rallying cry'⁽²⁴³⁾

BD 9/2/95

MARK ASHURST

GRAHAMSTOWN — Freedom of information risked becoming the rallying cry of non-governmental organisations, independent media and other interest groups "left stranded" by SA's transition, SABC presenter Tim Modise warned yesterday.

In a speech on the second day of the freedom of information conference at Rhodes University, Modise criticised the lack of openness and accountability within the media, asking proponents of more open government: "Who is the public you are talking about?"

The absence of "people who see it as part of their duties to filter information", such as Contralesa or tribal chiefs from KwaZulu/Natal, reinforced the perception that the kind of freedom delegates were calling for "is a class thing".

Reiterating Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's comments on Tuesday, President Nelson Mandela's spokesman Joel Netshitenzhe warned that government should not encourage "rights that end up undermining the strategic objectives that we have". Elements of the civil service could abuse "freedom of information rights".

Mbeki's legal advisor, advocate

Mojanku Gumbi, said the Bill would emphasise "participative freedom of information"

Non-disclosure of information could only be justified in the interests of the public, and not those of the government.

Deputy Constitutional Affairs Minister Valli Moosa supported this view, and called for the abolition of Section 23 of the interim constitution which requires individuals to cite reasonable grounds for seeking information. There are no such clauses in the proposed Bill.

Government's commitment to freedom of information "was not entirely altruistic" as it hoped that releasing information "would build consensus".

But Armscor corporate communications GM Abba Omar, describing himself as "an activist", warned that government, the police and the armed forces could not be accountable unless civil society had a role in defining their mandate.

"Legitimacy is the end of the process . . . by claiming to be accountable to the public as a whole, you end up being accountable to no one in particular," he said.

Sapa reports Sunday Times editor Ken Owen said drafters of freedom of information legislation should be careful not to create "a playground for lawyers".

He said defining limits on access to information would have to be done with great care.

"We are in danger of a Freedom of Information Act creating a nightmare of definitions, exceptions and legal loopholes in which we can be trapped badly I think it's a mistake to rush this legislation."

Owen said he was "a little sceptical" of how freedom of information would work in practice. His experience of the US system was that officials could easily evade the law.

When one legitimised secrecy one made inroads into freedom of speech.

A petition signed by delegates at the conference called on national police commissioner George Fivaz to release tapes of the police conversation during the January 27 raid by internal security unit members on Orlando police station.

The tapes reportedly record bitter racist exchanges between black and white policemen after a striking policeman was shot dead by the internal stability unit at Orlando police station on January 27.

OV
SH

F

61

DU
be
dug
Fre
bus

Media can't even handle info it has, says Sparks

Grahamstown — South Africa's press was demanding access to information it did not have the resources or skills to deal with, veteran journalist Allister Sparks said yesterday.

Reporting standards were at the lowest he had seen in his 44 years of journalism, he told a freedom of information conference in Grahamstown.

Newsrooms were being stretched to their limits and their staffs were in many cases becoming more and more junior at a time that demands on them were increasing.

Vast areas of the country, such as some of the former homelands, were not covered by the press.

"We are demanding access (to official information) but we can't handle what we have," he said.

Reports that were inadequate, superficial or simply wrong would test the patience of the regime and its commitment to press freedom.

Sowetan political editor Mathatha Tsedu said 70 percent of the paper's

(243) *Star 9/2/95*
reporters had less than two years' experience.

The Sowetan had two staffers in Parliament who had to cover six Constitutional Assembly theme committees, one of which had six subcommittees, every day.

The burden of trying to provide comprehensive news coverage had become more serious because the media was being used as a recruiting ground for communications experts for the new civil service.

Tsedu said all the country's daily newspapers together reached less than 5 percent of the population. Even the Sowetan reached only 1,6 million people.

If information was to be made available under a freedom of information Act, how was it to reach "the people", he asked.

The Government had to pay attention to the monopoly wielded by Argus and Times Media Limited and look for ways of empowering people who ran small publications in obscure areas in a bid to inform people

about things that mattered to them.

Sunday Times editor Ken Owen said a freedom of information Act would require huge resources from the Government, the media and individuals who wanted to use it.

People who had not worked on South African newspapers over the past decade could not realise how difficult, brutal and bruising an environment it had been. Several years ago, when he was appointed to head Business Day, he began with a staff of 73. Within days 14 journalists had resigned, lost to Australian media organisations.

Former Zimbabwean editor Geoff Nyarota told the conference that The Star showed "a certain eagerness to please the establishment" in its reporting on controversial Soweto police tapes.

He told delegates The Star had with "apparent glee" quoted Police Commissioner George Fivaz denying a Sunday Times report that he had blocked release of the tapes. — Sapa.

NEWSPAPERS

Argus' launch blitz

Argus Newspapers plans a R4,5m advertising and promotions blitz to launch its new daily supplement, *Business Report*, which hits the streets on March 7. It will be "the biggest launch party SA has seen since the inauguration," says Argus editorial director Ivan Fallon. "Hardly a senior business person in Johannesburg will not be invited." Planes are being chartered to ferry potential decision-making readers from Cape Town and Durban to the launch, backed by TV, print and outdoor advertising.

Though the new publication has a captive market in its carrier publications in Cape Town and Durban, Fallon is aware of the size of the task facing him in persuading the key business community of Johannesburg to switch from the conveniently niched *Business Day* to a morning purchase of *The Star* and advertisers, in turn, to follow.

Business Report will be a broadsheet of at least eight pages inserted in the four morning editions of the group (the fourth is the *Pretoria News*), providing national coverage with a local page in each centre and a total circulation of some 200 000 (including 50 000 in the morning edition of *The Star*). Initially it will be published five days a week, but a Saturday edition is planned, concentrating on personal finance.

It will be a vehicle for both national and regional advertising. Ad rates, says Fallon, will be attractive to an advertiser now using *Business Day* and designed to discourage the use of *Business Day* in combination, for example, with the *Cape Times*. He says the advertising cost per thousand circulation will be half that of *Business Day*, though, of course the quality of readership is much lower in that only a small percentage of the 200 000 people reached by *Business Report* will be business people. Though no number was given, Fallon says "we certainly have a lot more business readers than *Business Day*" But not in Johannesburg.

Fallon is unaware of a similar circulation formula having been used anywhere else in the world, now possible through technology which allows printing in all four centres.

Though *Business Day* is clearly being targeted, Fallon believes there is room for both publications. "This is not a fight to the death. *Business Day* has had it all to itself for quite a few years with no competition at all. Most people appreciate the fact that there will be an alternative. They won't abandon *Business Day* overnight. I don't underestimate its entrenched position. Research shows there is great loyalty to it. We won't tackle it head-on but we have our own major editions such as Durban and Cape Town. We have a network which

Business Day doesn't have. We can use all the resources of the group to feed into this.

"I don't think for a second it will be easy, but the downside is minimal. Though we have 35 journalists working for *Business Report*, only 10 new people have been taken on.

"A tiny increase in advertising will more than cover the extra costs, so it is almost underwritten from Day One. Once we are up and running, whatever we do has got to be better than we are doing now. I hope our advertising will persuade the business community to try it. They are not used to getting business news from *The Star*. At the end of the day, it will live or die on the actual product."

"The idea is to offer advertisers a national product, which they have never had before. It will have national quality and resources. None of our papers individually produce decent business papers of their own. They don't have the resources nor the commitment to space."

Fallon spelled out the new Argus development strategy of exploiting major potential synergies in the group. Examples of this other than the business publication are the new weekend magazine and a company to sell national advertising. There will also be editorial rationalisation to avoid duplication of coverage.

Argus is also planning to apply for a broadcast licence and is considering launching a downmarket tabloid newspaper. "We brought out Roy Greenslade, the world's greatest expert on tabloid newspapers, who will be reporting back on its viability."

"His initial feeling is positive. The *Daily Mirror* started as a comic when literacy levels in the UK were about what they are here now. I would like to do an old-style *Daily Mirror*, not a *Sun*, downmarket to the *Sowetan*, targeted at blacks."

Loerie dispute at an end

The battle for political correctness at the Loeries is over, with the Creative Directors' Forum having agreed to appoint two black creatives to the judging panel for this year's award festival. The CDF originally rejected a demand from the Association of Marketers (which organises the Loeries) for one black judge, arguing that this was tokenism and that judges should be chosen on merit alone, regardless of colour.

But, says CDF chairman Graham Warsop, there has been an "amazing turnaround" in the CDF's attitude and "we have now decided to go even further and

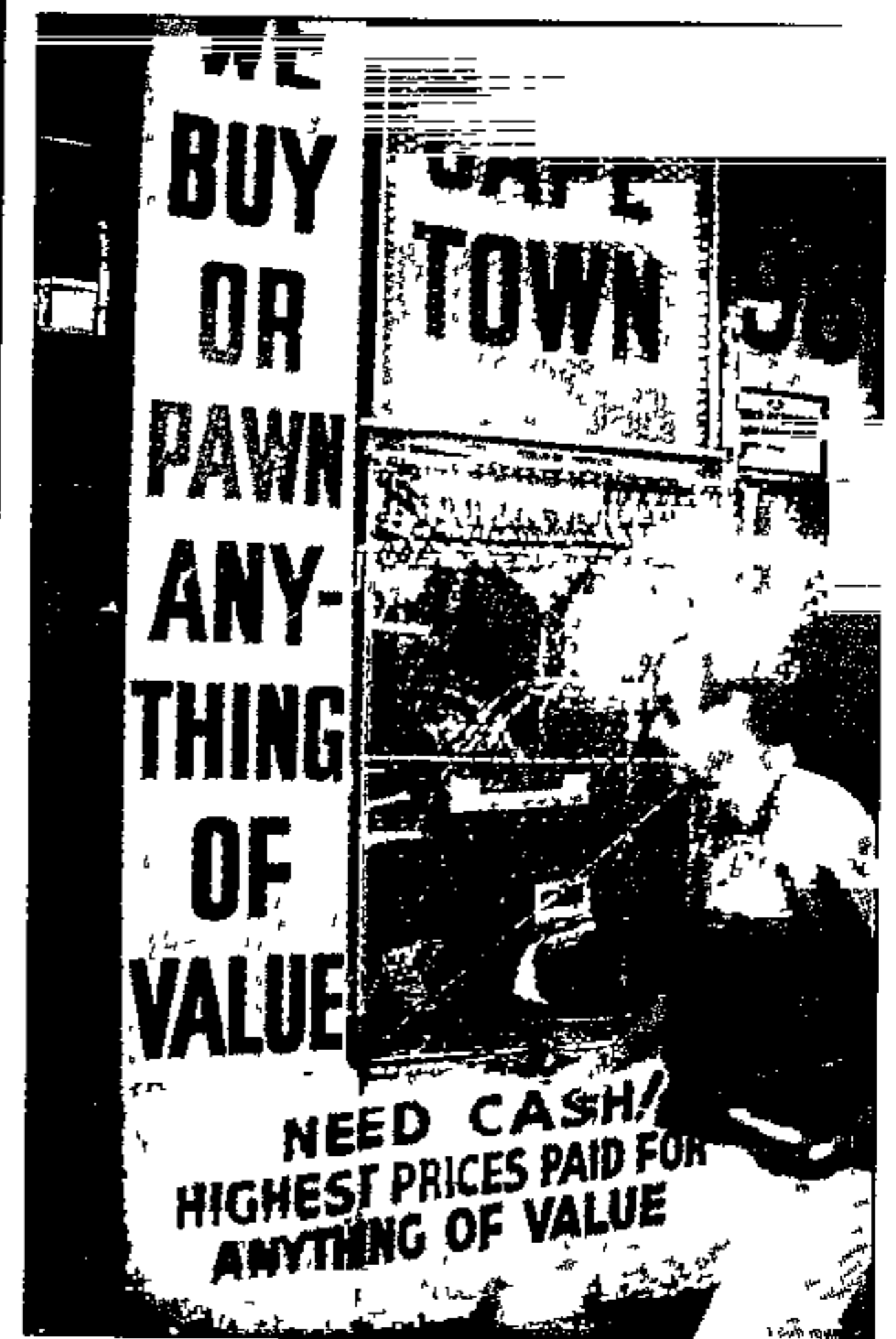
FM 10/2/95 (243)

appoint two black judges out of the nine selected by the CDF.

"We always thought of Loeries as an awards forum of international standard. But in the spirit of the new SA, we felt we should accept that there is a good possibility that that will no longer be the case. It may not have the standing internationally, but a greater good is served by having a truly representative spectrum of people in the country represented on the panel."

Loerie committee chairman Des Saunders says the committee was not prepared to back off on this subject. "We have to reflect the new spirit in the country," he says. "The judges must be relevant to the SA market."

However, Saunders does not believe that Loerie standards will suffer. "It might have happened if you immediately put in six black judges because there are not that many senior black creatives in the industry."



Loerie poster a touch of controversy

You can't do it overnight. We want the top black people who are respected. It is not tokenism and it is not a showcase of affirmative action. Blacks have a genuine role to play because of the danger of miscommunicating."

Loerie advertising this year is by AM-C, which has produced a daring poster campaign. "It may be extravagant," says Saunders, "but it will be one of the most visible and controversial we have ever had. The paper and printing costs are donated, so this is not a cost to the Loeries. We have many donors."

Tony Koenderman

Editors 'careless' about rights

GRAHAMSTOWN — South African editors were criticised yesterday for their apparent lack of interest in a freer flow of information

The deputy chairman of the Freedom of Expression Institute, Mr Raymond Louw, told the Freedom of Information conference here the media were "singularly careless" about their freedoms.

The government's proposed freedom of information legislation gave the press an opportunity to grasp the rights it had long aspired to.

The conference was part of that process and had been recognised as such by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki when he addressed it, Mr Louw said.

"But where are the editors of the country's newspapers?" he asked. "Apart from those participating directly in panels, only Nigel Bruce (of the Financial Mail) and Gavin Stewart (of the Daily Dispatch) are here."

"Why aren't they (editors) taking the keenest interest in these proceedings that directly affect them?" "Don't they care or have they no interest in further opening channels of information?" Mr Louw said — Sapa

Jordan fails to show up for debate

(243) CT 10/2/95

GRAHAMSTOWN — Minister for Telecommunications and Broadcasting Dr Pallo Jordan failed to turn up for a speaking engagement at a major freedom of information conference here yesterday.

He was to have been a keynote speaker in a debate on state policy on freedom of in-

formation

The conference co-ordinator, Rhodes University journalism department head Prof Guy Berger, told international delegates that Dr Jordan originally agreed "with some enthusiasm" to appear. However, the minister's secretary had telephoned on Wednesday to say

he would probably not attend.

No reasons had been given.

"Dr Jordan's secretary said last night that the conference in Grahamstown had been given ample warning that the minister might not be able to meet his commitment to speak to delegates."

The secretary contradicted

Prof Berger's claim they had been informed only the day before, saying they had been told three days in advance.

The minister could not be reached for comment last night because his cellular telephone service said "the subscriber is not available" — Sapa and Political Staff

Editor warns on press freedom

SPAN 10/2/95

243

Grahamstown — An editor has warned that once the ANC government started losing popularity, it would pay lip service to the freedom of the press

Addressing the conference on freedom of information at Rhodes University yesterday, City Press editor Khulu Sibiyi said while politicians claimed to support freedom of the press, they only paid lip service to it

Sibiyi warned. "Just wait until the ANC popularity declines, (Deputy President) Mbeki would say something else"

Mbeki told the conference earlier this week that the Government supported the freedom of information

Sibiyi told the conference that proposals by the Government to

hold the proceedings of the truth commission in secret were but one example of how a "well-meaning" Government could try to deny people information to which they were entitled

Sibiyi said it should be made an offence for those who hold public information to deliberately withhold it from the media and the public

He called on South African publishers and editors to "look beyond the profit motive" and do more groundwork to establish a foundation for the free flow of information

Sibiyi also said the SABC could be the most effective way of informing the nation. However, its present structure needed to be looked at

He called on the "various organs" of civil society to get more involved in the dissemination of information

African correspondent Colin Legum told delegates that most South Africans were totally ignorant about the African continent because their mass media had failed to serve them properly

The editor of Third World News Service and former correspondent for The Observer said that while the South African media persisted in portraying the rest of Africa as a place of corruption and war, there was in fact "only one war and two serious civil strifes" on now

He said the South African media was ignoring news that

gave a positive view of the continent

Freedom of Expression Institute deputy chairman Raymond Louw told the conference that the media was "singularly careless" about its freedoms

The proposed freedom of information legislation gave the press an opportunity to grasp the rights it had long aspired to

The conference was part of that process and had been recognised as such by Mbeki when he addressed it, Louw said

"But where are the editors of the country's newspapers? Apart from those participating directly in panels, only Nigel Bruce (Financial Mail) and Gavin Stewart (Daily Despatch) are here" — Ecna, Sapa

Defend the right to know – Sibiya

CITY Press editor Khulu Sibiya has warned that once the ANC government started losing popularity, it would "pay lip service" to the freedom of the press (243)

Addressing the conference on Freedom of Information at Rhodes University on Thursday, Sibiya said while politicians claimed to support the freedom of the press, they paid lip service to it.

He warned: "Just wait until the ANC's popularity declines, (Deputy President) Mbeki would say something else."

Mbeki told the conference earlier this week that the Government supported the freedom of information. CP 12/2/95

Sibiya warned that proposals by the Government to hold the proceedings of the Truth Commission in secret were but one example of how a "well-meaning" Government could try to deny people information to which they were entitled.

He said, "What one finds even more frightening is that Justice Minister Dullah Omar, who himself was victimised countless times by the previous regime, can support this undemocratic proposal."

He said Omar's position regarding the proceedings of the Commission should also be a warning to the media.

"Those who are in the trenches with us today can be our adversaries tomorrow," said Sibiya.

He said it should be made an offence for those who hold public information to withhold it deliberately from the media and the public.

Sibiya called on South African publishers and editors to "look beyond the profit motive" and do more to establish a foundation for the free flow of information. He said workshops had to be arranged "as a matter of urgency" between the publishers and those who held information to map out a way that would ensure that access to information was a right and not a privilege.

Sibiya also said the SABC could be the most effective way of informing the nation "The tragedy of this country would be for the SABC to pander to sectional interests."

He called on civil society to get more involved in the dissemination of information and to guard its right to be informed. - Ecna

3/19/2/95
Bill opens
door to
hard-core
porn (243)

⇒ From Page 1

They employ vague terminology, regulate the private life of an adult too strenuously, give preference to the Christian and Judaic religions, provide for political interference and do not place sufficient emphasis on the freedom of artistic expression and scientific research, it adds.

The second classification category, X18, deals with publications and films containing visual hard-core porn — explicit sexual intercourse — those which are not bona fide art, or which contain predominantly or explicitly XX and hard-core material, can only be distributed by licensed adult outlets.

Such material cannot be distributed to private persons by mail order. Distributors can obtain licenses from local authorities.

The third classification category, R18, concerns material that the board could consider to be harmful and disturbing for children under the age of 18. These publications and films have to display a clear notice that they have an over-18 years restriction. Publications have to be sold in sealed and, if necessary, opaque wrappers. But such material can be distributed anywhere and not necessarily through licensed adult premises.

The bill excludes all bona fide technical, professional, educational, scientific, documentary, literary or artistic publications and films from being outright under the XX classification and restricted to licensed adult premises.

The outright ban on restricted distribution or films and publications which promote hatred of a group will also be waived if the item in question amounts to a bona fide discussion, argument or opinion or is a work of art. These publications and films will only have to carry an over-18 restriction warning.

The board's decision to ban or classify material X18 could be reconsidered by a review board or taken before the Supreme Court.

Information white paper expected

ARC 21/2/95 (243)

Political Correspondent

A WHITE paper on freedom of information legislation will be tabled soon, says Deputy President Thabo Mbeki

He said a conference two weeks ago at Rhodes University had been the last major consultative forum on the issue before the white paper was finalised

He was speaking at a Press briefing yesterday

● No decision had been tak-

en on diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, Mr Mbeki said

He declined to answer a question on whether South Africa would agree to Red China's demand that a country severs ties with the Republic of China (Taiwan) before opening diplomatic links with the People's Republic

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alfred Nzo, would visit Beijing in the next few weeks to discuss the question of diplo-

matic ties, Mr Mbeki said

Deputy-President F W de Klerk, at a separate Press briefing, would say only that the question of diplomatic links with the two Chinas was being discussed

The core of the "two Chinas" dilemma is that South Africa does not want to have to choose between established relations and trade ties with Taiwan, and political loyalties and potential trade with Red China

Global input for Argus advisory board



Board members . . . Nthato Motlana (left), Eric Molobi, Wiseman Nkuhlu and Ben Bradlee will offer advice on global events and trends affecting the local media.

Argus Newspapers has established an international advisory board headed by Ben Bradlee, former editor of the Washington Post.

The board, meeting biannually alternately inside and outside South Africa, would advise and consult the group on world events and trends affecting the South African media, yesterday's announcement said.

Board members include New York's first black mayor David Dinkins; US congressman Andrew Young; Ted Sorensen, an adviser to former US president John F Kennedy; and British journalist and writer Anthony Sampson.

South Africans on the board include Kagiso Trust chief executive and Kagiso Trust Investments chairman Eric Molobi, In-

dependent Development Trust chief executive and Development Bank of South Africa chairman Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu, and businessman Dr Nthato Motlana.

Also on the board are Independent Newspapers chairman Dr Tony O'Reilly, Argus chairman Liam Healy, chief executive John Featherstone and group editorial director Ivan Fallon. — Sapa.

STON 23/2/95 (243)

New advisory board for Argus

243 source in 24/2/95

ARGUS Newspapers on Wednesday announced the establishment of an international advisory board headed by Mr Ben Bradlee, former editor of the *Washington Post*

The board, which will meet twice a year alternately inside and outside South Africa, will advise and consult the newspaper group on world events and trends affecting the South African media, the announcement said

Board members include New York's first black mayor Mr David Dinkins; US congressman Mr Andrew Young; Mr Ted Sorensen, a former adviser to US President John F Kennedy; and British

journalist and writer Mr Anthony Sampson. South Africans on the board include Kagiso Trust chief executive and Kagiso Trust Investments chairman Mr Eric Molobi; Independent Development Trust chief executive officer and Development Bank of South Africa chairman Prof Wiseman Nkuhlu; and businessman Dr Nthatho Motlana.

Dr Tony O'Reilly, chairman of Independent Newspapers, the major shareholder in Argus Newspapers, will serve on the board with Argus chairman Mr Liam Healy, chief executive Mr John Featherstone and group editorial director Mr Ivan Fallon — *Sapa*.

Independent to up stake in Argus

JOHANNESBURG — Independent Newspapers said it was offering Argus Newspapers shareholders R13 a share in cash for 70% of their shares

It said in a statement it wished to raise its stake in Argus to about 60% from its current 34,98% holding

It said shareholders could elect to sell all of their shares to Independent Newspapers if they wished

Independent said it had no

intention of de-listing Argus shares from the JSE, and would ensure the necessary spread of shareholders required in terms of JSE regulations is maintained

"Independent Newspapers has always made it clear it wanted to increase its shareholding in Argus when the time and circumstances were right," Independent Newspapers CE and Argus chairman Liam Healy said

"Now they are We would be delighted if the offer is fully

accepted by shareholders, to bring black institutions into the group"

The offer will be open for acceptance from Monday March 6 to Friday March 24 to shareholders registered as such on March 3

It said any additional Argus shares tendered over 70% would be at the Independent's discretion and would take place on the basis of a similar percentage to apply to all Argus shareholders who tendered additional shares

(243) CT 24/2/95

Shareholders who accept the offer will not be entitled to any final dividend declared by Argus for the nine months to December 31, 1994

If the offer for 70% of shares is accepted in full, Independent said it would invest about R270m.

If successful, it said it would place any shares acquired over 60% of the issued equity in Argus with selected black institutions to a maximum of 20%

Argus posts climb in earnings

(243)
ETZ/3/95

From DEREK TOMMEY

JOHANNESBURG — Argus Newspapers, South Africa's main newspaper publisher, increased its attributable profits by 45,4% in the nine months ended December 31.

Earnings rose from R16,2m, equal to 37,3c a share, in the nine months to December, 1993, to R23,52m equal to 52,1c a share.

Argus Newspapers has changed its financial year-end from March to December

The company is paying a final dividend of 10c a share, making a total payment for the nine months of 20c. This compares with a payment of 16,9c a share for the previous financial year.

Chief executive John Featherstone reports that the satisfactory trend experienced in the six months to September continued through to December 31.

Trading income before interest rose 31,7 to R39,8m. But a swing-around from interest received to interest paid trimmed the increase in trading income to 10,3

However, a R2,55m increase in investment income led to a 22,1 rise in taxed income to R23,8m.

And a sharp drop in income attributable to outside shareholders in subsidiary companies resulted in the taxed income, less one small provision, going to ordinary shareholders.

Featherstone says that earnings for the 12 months ending March will be only marginally better than the 72,4c earned in the 12 months to March, 1994 which were abnormally high owing to heavy pre-election advertising in the first quarter of 1994.

But earnings for the 1995 financial year should show a further significant improvement helped by a number of major initiatives.

These include the imminent launch of the new Business Report, the re-launch of the group's morning titles and the development of a new week-end strategy.

The effect of these developments is expected to work through to the operating figures this year.

He said the group was also investing in state-of-the-art technology which will result in substantial cost efficiencies and provide new business opportunities over the next few years.

Sharp improvement at Argus

(243)

■ BY DEREK TOMMEY

Argus Newspapers, South Africa's main newspaper publisher, increased its attributable profits by 45,4 percent in the nine months ended December 31.

Earnings rose from R16,2 million, equal to 37,3c a share, in the nine months to December, 1993, to R23,52 million equal to 52,1c a share.

Argus Newspapers has changed its financial year-end from March to December.

The company is paying a final dividend of 10c a share, making a total payment for the nine

months of 20c. This compares with a payment of 16,9c a share for the previous financial year.

Chief executive John Featherstone reports that the satisfactory trend experienced in the six months to September continued through to December 31.

Trading income before interest rose 31,7% to R39,8 million. But a swing-around from interest received to interest paid trimmed the increase in trading income to 10,3%.

However, a R2,55 million increase in investment income led to a 22,1% rise in taxed income to

R23,8 million

And a sharp drop in income attributable to outside shareholders in subsidiary companies resulted in the taxed income, less one small provision, going to ordinary shareholders

Featherstone says that earnings for the 12 months ending March will be only marginally better than the 72,4c earned in the 12 months to March, 1994 which were abnormally high owing to heavy pre-election advertising in the first quarter of 1994

But earnings for the 1995 financial year should show a further

significant improvement helped by a number of major initiatives

These include the imminent launch of the new Business Report, the relaunch of the group's morning titles and the development of a new weekend strategy

The effect of these developments is expected to work through to the operating figures this year

He said the group was also investing in state-of-the-art technology which will result in substantial cost efficiencies and provide new business opportunities over the next few years

SHOW 2/3/95

Argus profits jump 45 percent

(243)
ARL 2/13/95

Deputy Business Editor

ARGUS Newspapers' attributable profit jumped 45 percent to R23,5 million in the nine months ended December

The group has changed its financial year end from March to December in line with controlling shareholder, Independent Newspapers

Earnings a share of 52c (37c) reflect the acquisition of minority shareholdings in Natal Newspapers and The Pretoria News.

For the full year, earnings are expected to be in line with or only slightly better than the pre-listing forecast of 72,2c

A final dividend of 10c a share makes 20c for the nine months, compared to 16,9c for the previous financial year.

Turnover was up only 4 percent but trading income rose nearly 32 percent compared to the same period a year ago.

An interest bill of R4,2 million clipped the increase to 10,3 percent but this was partly offset by higher investment income arising from the group's 42,5 percent interest in The Sowetan, which was previously a wholly-owned business whose results were reflected in trading income

Directors said profits in the year to December 1995 should show further significant improvements.

Better conditions at most of the group's titles had continued into 1995 and major initiatives, including the launch of Business Report, the relaunch of morning titles and the development of a new week-end strategy, should boost operating figures this year

The group was also investing in state-of-the-art editorial and production technology which should cut costs and open up new business opportunities over the next few years.

The Star's Code of Ethics

Responsibilities:

- 1 In its reporting and comment, The Star should be accurate, fair, honest and frank.
- 2 The Star should aim to give all sides of an issue, by means of balanced presentation without bias, distortion, undue emphasis or omission.
- 3 The Star should be independent of government, commerce or any other vested interest
- 4 The Star should expose wrongdoing, the misuse of power and unnecessary secrecy
- 5 The Star should encourage racial co-operation, and pursue a policy aimed at enhancing the welfare and progress of all sections of the population.
- 6 The Star should endeavour to be positive and constructive but not misleadingly optimistic or bland
- 7 The Star should not pander to personal or sectional interests, but be solely concerned with the public interest
- 8 The public's right to know about matters of importance is paramount. The Star should therefore fight vigorously any measure to conceal facts of public interest, any attempt to prevent public access to the news

FOR the guidance of readers and advertisers, The Star today publishes its Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct for surveys and advertising features. We believe that this will serve as a guide for the whole newspaper industry

- STAR 7/3/95 (243)
- 9 The Star respects the individual's right to privacy, except where it conflicts clearly with the public interest
 - 10 Sources of news should be identified unless there is good reason not to
 - 11 Facts should be checked carefully
 - 12 Reports of a technical nature should always be read back to the source. Other reports should be read back to the source for the checking of facts only, except when time does not permit or there is valid reason to believe that the source will endeavour to frustrate publication on grounds other than factual accuracy
 - 13 The Star should not be afraid to admit error, and should pub-

lish corrections spontaneously, promptly and with suitable prominence. Where an apology is appropriate, it should be tendered.

Integrity:

- 14 The Star should report issues in an impartial and balanced manner. Every effort should be made to reflect all sides of a controversy, if not simultaneously, then in subsequent editions
- 15 The Star should report news without regard to its own interests or viewpoint, and without favour to its advertisers
- 16 No Star journalist should identify the source of information provided under a pledge of confidentiality
- 17 News and comment should be kept separate, save in exceptional circumstances. Comment should always be clearly identifi-

able, as should material from non-Star sources.

18 Advertising or promotional features should be clearly labelled, so as to leave readers in no doubt about the source and nature of the copy

19 In its comment, The Star should be fair, but outspoken when necessary, it should provide a forum for the exchange of comment, and publish opinions it disagrees with.

20 The Star should report matters concerning itself or its staff in the same manner as it reports on other individuals or institutions.

Honesty:

21 The Star and its staff should be free of any obligation to news sources and special interest, including political parties. Even the appearance of obligation should be avoided, especially by political and financial journalists.

22 Neither The Star nor its staff may accept any gift or service of value, without reference to the editor. No gift, favour or special treatment may be accepted if it puts a member of staff under any obligation to the donor. Staff should distance themselves from excessive entertainment by

seekers of publicity

23 No individuals may accept free or reduced rate travel, without the permission of the editor. Such offers should be made to the newspaper rather than the person. Where a travel or other concession is accepted in order to write a feature, mention of it should be made at the foot of the article

24 No individual may accept the loan of a vehicle, except for test drive purposes.

25 Star journalists should avoid active involvement in public affairs where a conflict of interest, potential or real, is likely to arise. Any financial, social, political or personal interest or activity which could give rise to such conflict should be declared to the editor

26 Staff may only accept outside commissions, part-time employment or strings for other publications with the knowledge and consent of the editor

27 Star journalists should be scrupulous in attending all functions to which they have accepted invitations. If any appointment cannot be kept, the host or person concerned should be informed beforehand, or an apology tendered immediately afterwards

Code of Conduct for surveys, advertising features

- 1 The Star's Code of Ethics should be observed in all respects
- 2 Readers should be left in no doubt about the source and nature of copy. If material is provided by advertisers or sources outside The Star, this should be clearly stated. Claims by companies must be attributed and not presented as statements of fact
- 3 Sales representatives may not promise use of copy or illustrations in editorial space in order to elicit advertisements
- 4 Reports about or references to companies relevant to a survey or advertising feature may not be omitted merely because they have declined to advertise
- 5 All involved in the production of surveys or advertising features must declare any connection to or involvement with individuals or companies which are the focus of the feature or advertising in it

Advertisements

This is material provided by advertisers or produced to their

specifications occupying a space bought by them

Clients may have complete control over content and design as long as The Star's rules on advertising material are observed.

All attempts must be made to prevent readers confusing advertisements with editorial. They may therefore not be presented in The Star's editorial style or fonts. If there is a possibility of confusion still arising with readers, the material must be clearly labelled "Advertisement"

Surveys

Features which receive this appellation must consist of editorial independently gathered by a writer commissioned by The Star and meeting all criteria laid down in The Star's Code of Ethics.

Writers may act on helpful leads from the sales representative and may contact companies which may be advertisers or potential advertisers during the course of their research. However, there must be no liaison whatsoever between writers and

sales representatives or advertisers on the question of specific editorial content

Service features

Although these features attempt to attract advertising of a particular nature, their primary aim is to provide a service to readers. They tend to appear regularly or seasonally and include such themes as adult education, holiday destinations and training for a career

The writer should attempt to give readers a balanced view of the subject and present items which are newsworthy and of service to readers.

Sales representatives may invite advertisers to submit editorial for consideration but may not guarantee its use

Material submitted by advertisers may be used if it meets the following criteria.

- It is appropriate to the theme.
- It is newsworthy or of service to readers.
- There is space after worthwhile items of service or news interest have been used.

Material submitted by advertisers must be processed by a writer of The Star to ensure it meets editorial standards. If such material is used in a service feature, readers must be told, in an italic note at the end of the report "Information in this report was supplied by (name of company)"

Advertisers should have no control over the appearance and the content of the feature

Advertising features

The aim of advertising features is to give clients an opportunity to publicise their activities, services or products.

These features are made viable by support from primary advertisers and their suppliers or clients

Editorial material should preferably be generated by a writer commissioned by The Star. If material is provided by advertisers, it should be processed by a writer commissioned by The Star to ensure it meets standards

Client may brief writers on what aspects of their business they want covered and provide illustrative material to accompany the text. They must be given the opportunity to check the copy for inaccuracies

The wishes of clients regarding content and design will be taken into account but must not supersede considerations of standards and style of The Star. For example, reports and illustrative material may be omitted if there is no space or they are of inferior quality. And elements that identify the product with The Star, such as banners, must follow style

If time permits, clients may be given an opportunity to see proofs of pages and suggest changes. However, no such guarantee may be given. This will be left to the discretion of the Production Editor

These products must be clearly labelled "Advertising Features" and, in addition, readers should be told "Information for this feature was supplied by (name company)"

Spectacular new publication launch

JOHN VILJOEN
Business Staff

(243)

ARG 7/3/95

JOHANNESBURG — Argus Newspapers promised a new era here during a big-budget lights and music show which lived up to its advance billing as the most spectacular media launch South Africa has seen

The group, which in future is to be known as Independent Newspapers of South Africa, invited 1 000 guests from Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town to celebrate the first edition of Business Report, which appeared in newspapers across the country, including the Cape Times, today

Braamfontein's concrete facades were transformed as they became the backdrop for a visual feast of lasers and fireworks, which also saw a team of abseilers unveil the largest South African flag yet produced

The guests, commerce and industry leaders, advertising executives, media chiefs and politicians, were treated to an impressive video display on a giant screen set up at the venue, outdoors at the Braamfontein Civic Centre

When he addressed the gathering, Independent Newspapers chairman Tony O'Reilly announced a new era of competi-

tion in business reporting.

"South Africa has never had a national business daily paper before. From tomorrow it will have it — an international class, highly informed, well-researched and well-written business section, treating business in South Africa not just as regional national news, but as what it is, international news".

"Two months from now we will announce similar dramatic changes to our weekend titles, with the addition of a new national magazine, so that by mid-year every one of our titles will have been greatly changed and improved"

Weekly Mail considering rights offer

THE Weekly Mail & Guardian (WM&G) is considering a rights offer to finance a new publishing project and its plans to venture into radio broadcasting. (243)

Editor Anton Harber said yesterday that the company had restructured, leaving him sole editor of the newspaper, while former co-editor Irwin Manoim would concentrate on developing the new publishing project. The new publishing product would either be incorporated into the WM&G or produced as a stand-alone paper. No decision had been taken yet.

Harber said a rights offer was one of the options under consideration to finance the expansion plans. Discussions were at an embryonic stage, but it was possible that the UK-based Guardian group would un-

AMANDA VERMEULEN

derwrite the offer. BD9/3/95
He said the Guardian supported the publishing company's plans, and depending on the degree to which the proposed rights offer was taken up by minority shareholders, could raise its stake in the company.

He could not put a figure on the amount the proposed rights offer would raise as the costing plans for new developments were still being drawn up. "Two or three projects" were being investigated.

The WM&G is in a consortium with film producer Anant Singh, publishing group Publico and Kagiso Trust Investments to launch a national radio station with first rights to the BBC's worldwide services.

Major victory for Mwasas over Perskor

By Joe Mdhlela
Political Reporter

243



THE Media Workers Association of South Africa this week gained a major victory when Perskor agreed to give workers a minimum wage of R1 500 a month

General secretary of Mwasas in the KwaZulu-Natal region, Mr Mike Mtakati, said the union regarded the developments at Perskor as "a major victory" for workers

"Until Monday, when we settled with the company, there were still workers who earned as little as R980 a month," Mtakati said.

Perskor general manager Mr Fame Gouws confirmed that his company had settled with the union — a move that averted industrial action

Working relationship

"We are glad we have reached a settlement with Mwasas on all their demands. We hope to have an improved working relationship with the union," Gouws said

The company has also agreed to give weekly paid staff a 12 percent increase, as opposed to its initial offer of eight percent

A general labourer will now earn a minimum of R287,84 a week, with drivers, representatives and clerks, earning a minimum of R360,64 a week

Workers earning more than of R1 500 a month will gain a ten percent increase

Mtakati disclosed that Perskor and Mwasas would establish a disparity committee to "ensure that all disparities are rooted out"

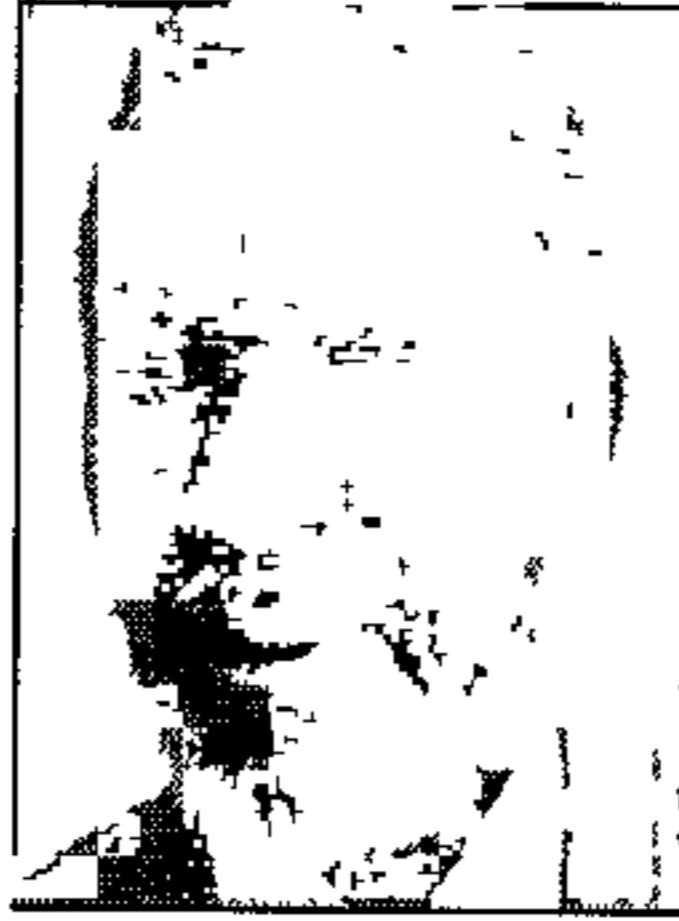
Sowetan
9/3/95

New Nation joins New Africa stable

(243) CT 17/3/95

JOHANNESBURG: New Africa Publications yesterday announced it had purchased the title of the weekly publication New Nation.

New Africa Publications chairman Dr Nthato Motlana said the acquisition was in line with the group's plans to add publications to its stable, which already includes The Sowetan



MEDIA MOGUL: Dr Nthato Motlana

NAP would take over management of New Nation with immediate effect, Dr Motlana said.

In his reaction, Sowetan editor Mr Aggrey Klaaste said the transaction would further empower black business and make New Africa Publications a powerful player in print media. — Sapa

have the controversial Lothar Neethling defamation case reopened

The application will be based on evidence from new witnesses

Neethling, former head of the SAP's forensic laboratory, brought a R1m libel action against the two newspapers, their editors — Anton Harber (*The Weekly Mail*) and Max du Preez (*Vrye Weekblad*) — and *Vrye Weekblad* reporter Jacques Pauw

Neethling claimed that reports which linked him to the deaths of various people by poison allegedly prepared at his laboratory had defamed him

Trial judge Johann Kriegler, now on the Constitutional Court, found that Neethling had not been defamed

The Appeal Court overturned Kriegler's finding and ruled that he should hear evidence on the quantum of Neethling's damages

Attorney Karien Norval of the firm David Dison, Norval & Wheeldon has interviewed a number of new witnesses.

"These are people who were not available to give evidence during the first trial. We will base our application on their evidence and the reasons why they were not available at the time"

Eddie Botha

THE PRESS

(243)
KM 17/3/95
Reopening old wounds

Lawyers for *The Weekly Mail* and the former *Vrye Weekblad* could soon be bringing an application to the Supreme Court to

More time needed to prepare defence

243
Jan 17/3/95

WeekendStar has hearing postponed

A Press Council hearing involving Armscor and the WeekendStar newspaper was postponed in Johannesburg yesterday to allow the newspaper more time to gather evidence for its defence.

Armscor has lodged several complaints with the council over a series of articles published by the WeekendStar implicating Armscor in the South African Airways Helderberg crash in November 1987.

Damages

Armscor lodged 32 complaints against the newspaper and quoted sections of the reports it objected to

Some of the newspaper reports also made mention of South African Airways — the owners of the Helderberg aircraft.

WeekendStar lawyer Malcolm Fried said on Wednesday the newspaper had been informed last Thursday that SAA planned to sue the publication for "substantial damages arising from

the reports"

WeekendStar editor David Allen said only six of the 32 complaints dealt solely with Armscor while the remaining complaints involved both Armscor and SAA.

Allen said that by giving evidence pertaining to complaints involving the airline, the newspaper could jeopardise its position if SAA went ahead with civil action.

Press Council chairman Professor Kobus van Rooyen rejected Allen's statement and ordered the newspaper to reply to all 32 complaints by April 7.

"If we are forced to deal with SAA, then we will go to review," Allen said.

Fried said if the WeekendStar's position remained unchanged at the start of the hearing on April 19, the newspaper would review its situation

According to Van Rooyen, the WeekendStar reserved the right to appeal to the Supreme Court to suspend the hearing if the newspaper deemed it would prejudice it if SAA took action.

Fried said if SAA decided not

to act, the newspaper would require a written waiver from the airline.

Armscor waived all rights to sue the WeekendStar since the matter was brought before the Press Council

In his application for a postponement of the hearing, Allen said a "momentous task" lay before the WeekendStar to obtain evidence to support its defence.

He said it would take days to contact sources both in South Africa and abroad.

Allen added that some sources might be reluctant to provide sworn statements because they had been intimidated

'Unreasonable'

Armscor rejected WeekendStar's application, saying the newspaper had had ample time to prepare for and reply to the hearing.

Van Rooyen concurred, but said it would be "objectively unreasonable" not to grant a postponement

The hearing is expected to resume on April 19. — Sapa.

New Nation gets new owner and new look

CORPORATE Africa subsidiary New Africa Investments (Nail) has bought independent newspaper New Nation, its second newspaper after last year's acquisition of the Sowetan from Argus Newspapers

Nail MD Jonty Sandler said yesterday the transaction would be finalised today. He would not put a purchase price on the deal. New Nation would fall under Nail's New Africa Publications (NAP)

New Nation was launched by the Catholic Bishops' Conference in 1986 under the editorship of Zwelakhe Sisulu, who is now SABC group CE. In 1993 it was relaunched as Sunday Nation, but closed in June last year after the reintroduction of the Friday edition of New Nation. **BD 17/3/95**

AMANDA VERMEULEN

Sandler said several million rands would be invested in New Nation. The acquisition would be bedded down in the next few months, while management was considering its title. **(243)**

The paper would continue to target upper-income black readers, but Sandler said it was likely that the editorial focus would become more balanced, with less political coverage and more business news

Sandler said there would be a rationalisation of staff, but the majority would remain with the paper, including editor Gabu Tugwana. The paper would continue to be published on Fridays.

Armcor goes to press body

(213) Star 18/3/95
MAX GEBHARDT

THE Press Council this week began hearing a complaint by Armcor against a series of articles on the Helderberg plane crash published by WeekendStar

The articles appeared over several weeks, starting in November last year. The complaint consists of general criticisms of the articles and 32 specific complaints. It is one of the most wide-ranging ever brought against a newspaper at a formal inquiry

Press Council chairman Professor Kobus van Rooyen granted an adjournment until April 19, after WeekendStar editor David Allen had asked for more time. He said it would take days to contact sources

According to Allen, of the 32 complaints brought by

Armcor before the Press Council, only six dealt specifically with Armcor, while the others involved both Armcor and SAA.

WeekendStar lawyer Malcolm Fried said the newspaper had been informed last Thursday that SAA planned to sue the publication for damages

Allen said that by giving evidence before the Press Council on complaints involving the airline, the newspaper could jeopardise its position if SAA went ahead with civil action.

Armcor opposed WeekendStar's application, saying it had had ample time to prepare for the hearing.

The chairman criticised WeekendStar for not being ready to present its case immediately, but said it was clear the newspaper would need time to respond.

Freedom of information is vital

STAN 21/3/95 (243)

State censorship and an information unfriendly government has, in the past, severely limited access to official and other types of information, says Cathy Stadler, information collection manager of the Human Rights Institute of South Africa.

"The Interim Constitution's Bill of Rights enshrines the right of access to all information held by the State, but only in so far as this information is 'required for the exercise or protection of any of his or her rights,'" explains Stadler.

"This clause of the Interim Constitution has been the subject of a campaign launched by the Freedom of Expression Institute and other organisations who argue that this is not enough Government information, it is argued, should be

more accessible as citizens should have the right to know and the Government should become progressively more accessible and accountable," she says

Stadler says some of the persuasive reasons for access to government information include

■ Information is one of the cornerstones of building a culture of human rights in South Africa

■ Increasing the accountability of the Government through a better knowledge of the actions of government officials

■ Giving individuals and organisations access to policy documents and facilitating input on new developments

■ Allowing access to information which has been notoriously difficult to exact from government departments

■ Facilitating the free flow of information at all levels of society

A new Freedom of Information Act will be passed by Parliament shortly and it is expected that this act will outline the procedures by which the public and the media will exercise their right of official information

"The Government will not only have to ensure that access to information is made possible, but that the organisation of relevant information is improved," says Stadler.

"Apartheid has had a catastrophic impact on the quality, collection, organisation and dissemination of information by the state — in some cases more catastrophic than the mechanisms of censorship have been. Little information has been collected on margin-

alised, rural communities, about women or about the impact of violence on children to name but a few areas," she says.

Stadler believes a more creative approach to providing access to official information is required to bridge the gap between "information rich and information poor communities" to ensure that all citizens are aware of their new rights

"The provision of information to communities who have in the past been deprived of such information would constitute an important step in ensuring that the Government remains accountable and in touch with its constituencies, and that culture of human rights is nurtured and supported in South Africa," concludes Stadler.



Vosloo no fireworks
for him

(243)
FM 24/3/95
NASIONALE PERS
Going for new niche

With the recent launch of Argus Newspapers' *Business Report* and talk of a joint venture publication by *Enterprise* magazine and Swedish newspaper group Dagens Industri, it does not seem the best time to launch yet another English-language weekly in what shows signs of rapidly becoming an overtraded market

Yet Nasionale Pers has been mulling over the idea of an English equivalent of *Finansies & Tegniek* for some time, following earlier successful language crossovers with *Huisgenoot/You* and *Drum* magazines

Nobody at the Cape-based press giant is saying it openly but the recent damaging battle for control at *Finance Week* presented Nasionale Pers with the gap it was seeking

Chairman Ton Vosloo says the latest unaudited circulation figures for *Finansies & Tegniek* are 24 000 copies a week. Magazine sector CE Sahe de Swardt says he hopes the new English *F&T Weekly*, due to be launched in June, will reach 10 000 "in a year or so." If he is correct, the combined circulation of the two magazines, at today's figures, would be among the highest in the industry, excluding publications inserted into national newspapers

While *Finance Week* is the most likely victim of the growing chase after business advertising revenue, De Swardt emphasises the new magazine, the eleventh fully owned title in the Nasionale group, is not aiming at the *FM*'s target market

"There are a number of market niches. We think we can find a place in the sun without clashing with the *FM*," he says

But what about hitting *Finansies & Tegniek*'s circulation? "We considered that but, as far as we can tell, only about 5% of the publication's readers are English-speaking. Therefore, it should not make much difference to *Finansies & Tegniek*"

The new publication will have a big advantage in costs. By sharing journalists and advertising staff, technology, distribution and other overheads, De Swardt hopes the new weekly will break even in a year or two. He won't disclose start-up costs but says they'll be nowhere near "the razzmatazz we have seen lately"

Publications aimed at black readers also appear to be increasing their focus on the business community. New Africa Investments, which last year bought control of the *Sowetan* and this week added the small *New Nation* newspaper to its stable, will seek a better balance for the acquisition by concentrating more on business news, claims MD Jonty Sandler

Shaun Harris

Deadlock in Argus pay talks

(243)

■ LABOUR REPORTER

Star 24/3/95
The South African Union of Journalists, representing journalists on Argus newspapers countrywide, yesterday declared a dispute with Argus management after a deadlock in wage talks.

The move came as about 30 SAUJ members staged a lunchtime picket outside The Star's Sauer Street entrance in support of the union's demand for higher salaries and other benefits.

The dispute was declared after Argus management's final offer on wages of 10,5% in negotiations yesterday, with management retaining the prerogative to allocate 20% of that increase on the basis of merit.

Negotiations with the Media Workers' Association of SA, also representing Argus workers, resume today. A source within Mwasu said the union would demand a revised 13% across-the-board increase.

Argus ordered not to ⁽²⁴³⁾ publish papers

ARG 29/3/95
BLOEMFONTEIN. —

The Appeal Court has ordered Argus Holdings Ltd and Argus Newspapers not to publish a range of suburban newspapers

This overturns the dismissal of an earlier application to restrain the company from issuing the publications.

CTP Ltd of Industria West and its directors Terrence Desmond Moolman, Noel Malcolm Coburn and Meredith Favid William Short wanted Argus to be interdicted and restrained from publishing the newspapers Southern Star/Focus, Sandton Star, Eastern Star/Focus, Northern Star/Focus and Western Star/Focus, either together with or separately from The Star newspaper

The case arose from agreements between Mr Coburn, Mr Short and Argus Holdings on January 17 1990, and the four appellants and Argus Holdings on May 15 1985.

The application was dismissed by Mr Justice E L. Goldstein in the Rand Supreme Court on May 18 1993

Yesterday, Mr Justice Nienaber amended the lower court order to interdict Argus Holdings and Argus Newspapers from directly or indirectly publishing the relevant newspapers or any newspaper substantially similar in nature and circulation

Leave was granted to the Argus companies, jointly or severally, to approach the court, on due notice to the other parties, and on good cause being shown that circumstances had materially changed, for an order to rescind or amend the order

The Chief Justice Mr Justice Corbett, Mr Justice E M Grosskopf, Mr Justice Smalberger and Mr Justice Nicholas

Mr Justice Nienaber found that it could not be said that the inserts were not newspapers for the purposes of the two agreements

On the question as to whether the Focus inserts were "free", the judge was prepared to assume that they were separate, but by no stretch of imagination could they be said to be free.

When a recipient purchased The Star, in which the publication in question was enfolded, he paid for a single article that consisted of different parts.

The recipient in effect got two papers for the price of one — as he would in the rare instance where he was anxious to acquire a Focus rather than a Star.

In either case he paid for both. Neither was free, said the judge

The restraint clauses in the two agreements drew a distinction between different categories of publications, some of which the Argus companies were permitted to publish and distribute, others not

The Focus newspapers, inserted into The Star and comparable to the Caxton publications in appearance and content, were clearly local and not regional, although distributed in selected localities together with and as part of a regional paper

What mattered was that the newspapers were distributed by the Argus companies in substantially smaller geographical areas than The Star which, by common consent, was a regional publication

It was in that sense that the Focus publications could properly be described as "local newspapers" for purposes of the restraint clauses.

As such their publication and distribution offended against the restraint on publishing local newspapers — Sapa.

The Star ready to challenge court ruling on regionals

(243)

Jan 30/31/95

■ BY BRENDAN TEMPLETON

Argus Newspapers is seeking to regain the initiative from Caxton publishers following an Appeal Court ruling yesterday that The Star may no longer distribute its popular local supplements.

The court held that The Star, by publishing supplements such as Looking North, Looking East and Looking South, was contravening a 1985 trade restraint agreement between Caxton and Argus Newspapers, which owns The Star.

Argus Newspapers might launch an urgent interdict against the ruling today. The supplements will not be appearing until the matter has been resolved.

The ruling can be overturned if Argus Newspapers is able to show that material changes have occurred since it signed the deal with Caxton. Argus Newspapers attorney Jonathan Witts-Hewinson said, he believed Independent Newspapers' takeover of Argus last year constitut-

ed such a change.

Witts-Hewinson said he had informed Caxton of this opinion and had given it until 9am today to agree that the Appeal Court order had no force and effect. If Caxton did not do so, Argus intended bringing an urgent application in the Supreme Court against it.

Mr Justice Nienaber said the restraint agreement prevented Argus Newspapers from publishing local newspapers in Caxton's distribution areas. Argus had argued that the supplements were only inserts and could not be described as newspapers in their own right, but the judge disagreed.

The Chief Justice, Mr Justice Corbett, Mr Justice E M Grosskopf, Mr Justice Smalberger and Acting Judge of Appeal Mr Justice Nicholas concurred.

The Appeal Court overturned a May 1993 Rand Supreme Court decision by Mr Justice E Goldstein which had found in favour of Argus Newspapers.

Gauteng newspaper war

(243) Wm(BM) 31/3-6/4/95

Bruce Cohen

A BITTER battle for the knock 'n drop newspaper market in Gauteng between the Argus Company and Caxtons has ended — and just begun.

The Appeal Court this week upheld an appeal by Caxtons-CTP against an 18-month-old Supreme Court judgment which allowed Argus to publish freesheets in competition with Caxtons

Caxtons, which was previously 50 percent owned by Argus until Tony O'Reilly bought the newspaper group last year, had a restraint of trade agreement with Argus going back to 1985 when Argus acquired its share in Caxtons, preventing it from competing in the freesheet market.

But Argus went ahead with a series of zoned inserts called "Focus" in *The Star* which landed them in court facing a Caxtons interdict.

Argus won that round in 1993, but this week Caxtons won the second. It may, however, be a temporary victory for Caxtons managing director Terry Moolman. The Appeal Court judgment has given Argus a fresh window of opportunity to get back into the lucrative market. The court ruled that no interdict could operate in perpetuity. The judge pointed out that in changed circumstances, the CTP restraint might not be worthy of protection.

Argus immediately responded by saying it would launch a fresh court application to allow it to publish the regional supplements.

FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS

FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS

Mokaba sues TML

When ANC officials tried to learn more about SATTI - after Frelimo let slip the offer at a meeting to discuss the October elections in Mozambique - they had been hard-pressed to learn a single concrete detail.

He contributed a cheque of R50 000 to the SATTI trust fund.

There was a conflict of interests because Mokaba was also chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Tourism and Environmental Affairs (as well as a member of SATTI).

Two Russian passenger aircraft "given" to SATTI were likely the property of the former Communist party of the Soviet Union which kept undisclosed assets apart from the State and that SATTI had tried to sell the planes to Zaire and Mozambique "who were perplexed at the offer because they already had fleets of the same type of aircraft" and;

Mokaba claimed that the above allegations were defamatory and that he was understood by readers to have acted in a dishonest and improper manner, and the article implied that he:

Was misusing his position as a public official to gather personal wealth and advantage.

Was involved in illegal dealings which were in a conflict of interests.

In collusion with SATTI, was misusing his position to negotiate secret deals with foreign governments and;

Was involved in clandestine commercial activities which he concealed from his own political party.

Mokaba sues TML magazine

By PHILLIP MOROBI

MP PETER Mokaba this week sued Times Media for R1 million for alleged defamation in the *Financial Mail*.

Mokaba alleged he was defamed in an article in the *Financial Mail* in October 7 1994, stating that he and Winnie Mandela "had a role in setting up the trust fund for the SA Travel and Tourist Institute (SATTI) under the guidance of a Dutch national, Max Meggens."

(243)
Summons
CP 214/95

Financial Mail editor Nigel Bruce said on Friday he had received a R1 million summons but that the publication would defend itself vigorously.

"We believe in a democratic and transparent government. We welcome the opportunity to examine in public Mokaba's business affairs, and possibly Winnie Mandela's activities as well."

"We stand firmly by our story and there are no chances we will apologise," he said.

■ To Page 2

Caxton to file papers (243) STAR 4/4/95 over regionals deal

■ BY JANINE SIMON

Caxton publishers is expected to file papers with the Rand Supreme Court today explaining why The Star should be prevented from publishing its popular regional supplements.

Argus attorney Jonathon Witts-Hewinson said Independent Newspapers' takeover last year of Argus Newspapers warranted the Appeal Court order — that the publishing of the supplements contravened a restraint of trade agreement with Caxton — being set aside, and he accordingly filed an application in the Rand Supreme Court.

In another develop-

ment Caxton MD Terry Moolman yesterday confirmed Caxton's intention to sue Argus for "tens of millions" of rands in compensation for breaking the restraint order.

Argus Newspapers' Gauteng GM Graeme King said no formal advice of a civil action had been received. "We have published the supplements only since winning the Supreme Court case in May 1993, and believe we have been totally within our rights."

The supplements will not be appearing until the matter is resolved. King said The Star would be publishing some local pages in all editions for the full run of the newspaper.

ANC seeks answer to media 'pressure'

(243) AUG 7/4/95

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

WHO watches the watchdog?

This is one of the questions the African National Congress will seek to answer as it launches an investigation into how to respond to media pressure to censure errant, or apparently errant, members.

At yesterday's meeting of the ANC parliamentary caucus, ANC deputy president Thabo Mbeki implored members to find ways to deal with what Chief Whip Arnold Stofile referred to as "negative", and later "offensive" media coverage of the organisation, particularly on matters of internal discipline.

Mr Stofile said Mr Mbeki had given the caucus "breakdowns" of high-profile cases such as those involving Allan Boesak, Lerumo Kalako, Peter Mokaba and Winnie Mandela where the media consistently pressurised the organisation to "take deci-

sions on the basis of what the media had alleged to be the case about these members"

Mr Stofile said the organisation had consistently resisted making decisions based on such reports

In the case of Allan Boesak, the former ambassador-designate to Geneva alleged to have misappropriated Foundation for Peace and Justice funds, inquiries were not exactly proving what had been alleged about him, Mr Stofile said

The same had applied to Lerumo Kalako, who had been cleared by a commission of inquiry of alleged misuse of public funds while he was Western Cape minister of environment affairs and tourism

Mr Stofile said Mr Mbeki had warned the ANC "not to fall into the trap of reporting recklessly to the press without verification of the status quo" A strategy was being sought to deal with this question

Non-party local govt is organisation's aim

MDUDUZI KA HARVEY

NON-POLITICAL local government would be more effective in delivering services and combating violence because conflicts were the result of political differences, Residents' and Ratepayers' Association of SA spokesman Koos van Rensburg said yesterday.

Van Rensburg said his organisation would campaign against political parties in Gauteng constituencies and said it had received support from a large number of ratepayers in Midrand, Cullinan, Kinross, Secunda, West Rand, East Rand and Kempton Park.

The organisation would intensify its campaign in Greater Johannesburg and townships. Affiliates would campaign nationwide.

He said the well-being of communities, and not party political control of decision-making, would be the basis of the campaign strategy. The organisation would involve itself in the voter registration campaign. On April 28, the organisation would launch its manifesto and embark on a national advertising campaign. This would be funded by the R10 registration fee that members paid.

Van Rensburg said the aims of his organisation included: the establishment of local government on non-political grounds; solving the backlog of services and amenities in black townships while maintaining levels in white areas; ensuring distribution of finances was equitable for townships and suburbs; and maintenance of law and order everywhere. *BD 7/4/95*

Meanwhile, the ANC in Gauteng announced its "Operation Last 30 Days" campaign aimed at boosting low voter registration and encouraging 75% of the 6-million potential voters who have not registered to do so in the next 23 days.

ANC regional deputy secretary Obed Bapela said the organisation would mobilise 300 volunteers per branch for registration on a daily basis. They would establish a registration form distribution network that would cover residential, work and public places. A collection task team and a management and monitoring team would speed up registration. Rallies would be organised to encourage registration.

□ Sapa reports that the office of the Northwest local government minister said yesterday political parties, canvassers and enumerators in the Northwest might be deliberately holding back signed registration forms for the November 1 local elections.

Spokesman Erick Matlawe warned that any person or political party withholding forms would be "hunted and severely punished".

Withholding registration forms was an offence punishable by a fine of up to R60 000 or imprisonment for as long as three years.

SACP to maintain tripartite alliance

THE SA Communist Party had not abandoned its socialist programme, nor was the tripartite alliance in danger of splitting, SACP general secretary Charles Nqakula said yesterday.

Speaking at the 9th SACP congress in Crown Mines in Johannesburg yesterday, Nqakula said his party had contributed greatly to the building of the alliance but warned that it would not be maintained "at any price, or simply for old time's sake".

Nqakula said one of the SACP's critical tasks was to transform the party into an organisation capable of playing a vanguard role within the progressive movement. It would have to do so by consolidating cadre structures rather than through mass recruitment. This did not mean recruitment would be suspended.

"It is a question of recruiting strategically, and ensuring that organisationally we are able to service those we recruit."

Nqakula said defending the national democratic revolution demanded a decisive move towards socialism. He said part of the SACP's emerging perspective was that socialism was not just a desirable future, but that it had to be struggled for "here and now".

Central committee member Blade Nzi-

NOMAVENDA MATHRANE

mande commented on the effect of the end of the Cold War on SA, which had resulted in a negotiated transition.

Nzimande warned of "international hoodwinking". He said SA should be wary of taking advice that might "weaken some of the advances made" and warned against compromising SA's sovereignty.

He hit out at class forces which had been "dependent on the apartheid government", including the right wing and elites of the former homelands. He warned the "Kwa-Zulu government ... would like to roll back the past".

□ Sapa reports a strategic document prepared for discussion at the congress said the party should ensure key public utilities such as Eskom, Transnet, Telkom, the Post Office and the SABC were not privatised or run down.

Titled "Strategy and Tactics Document" and expected to be overwhelmingly adopted when the congress ends on Saturday, it says: "While it is necessary to transform public corporations, an effective public sector is necessary."

The congress will be addressed by President Nelson Mandela today.

Argus continues supplements bid

ARGUS Newspapers continued its bid in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday to overturn an Appellate Division order prohibiting the company from publishing supplements to rival the Caxton Group's local "knock and drop" publications.

Judge J Hefer, however, reserved his judgment yesterday. *(243)*

The Appellate decision was made in Caxton's favour last month, but contained a proviso which stated Argus was entitled to have the order reviewed in the Rand Supreme Court if the company could prove the conditions under which it was formerly bound to uphold trade restraint agreements with Caxton had changed.

Argus submitted the conditions had changed as a result of the company's takeover by Independent Newspapers.

In 1980, Argus Holdings acquired a substantial stake in Caxton through the acqui-

DEBORAH FINE

sition of shareholdings in the Afmed Group, Caxton's holding company.

As a result, Argus Holdings acquired a stake in CTP Ltd, the Caxton subsidiary which published "knock and drops".

In 1987, Argus Holdings established Argus Newspapers as a wholly owned but separate newspaper division. As a result of its association with Argus Holdings, Argus Newspapers was obliged to honour the restraint agreements with Caxton.

Last year Argus Holdings disposed of all its interests in Argus Newspapers by selling to Independent Newspapers.

Advocate Dennis Fine, SC, for Argus Newspapers, argued yesterday his client's obligation to honour the restraint agreements had arisen only through Argus Holdings' association with Caxton and CTP

S
T
i
a
J
t
t
S
t
o
S
i
r
a
b
w
N
T
D

ARGUS/CAXTON (243)
FM 7/4/95
Legal battles continue

Argus Newspapers seems to be fighting fires on several fronts. Apart from the smping battle with the *Sunday Times* about the marketing confusion and success or otherwise of *Business Report*, litigation over *The Star* carrying local newspapers as inserts looks set to continue.

Argus Holdings (now Omnia Media), owner of *The Star* and other metropolitan newspapers before Tony O'Reilly bought control, appeared to have won the battle to produce local newspapers against the Caxton group when the Rand Supreme Court ruled in Argus's favour some time ago.

Until then, a cosy relationship existed between Argus and Caxton Contracts, including restraint clauses, were in place which effectively divided the turf between Argus's national and regional newspapers and Caxton's local publications.

The relationship soured after the court ruling, with, among other things, former Argus Holdings CE Doug Band leaving the

continued on page 109

FINANCIAL MAIL • APRIL • 7 • 1995 • 105

continued from page 105

board of Caxton. After that, O'Reilly took control and Argus Newspapers was listed separately.

Last week, the Appeal Court overturned the earlier decision in favour of Argus. It ruled that the inserts carried by *The Star* were "local newspapers" and in breach of earlier restraint agreements. But the Appellate Division allowed one or both parties the opportunity to seek relief if they could show a material change in the relationship between the two companies.

Urgent application

Argus Newspapers wasted no time. Last Friday, it brought an urgent application to the Rand Supreme Court.

The matter was due to be heard on Thursday this week. Argus Newspapers' attorney confirmed it would be argued that the relationship had changed materially because, among other reasons, cross-shareholdings and directorships had been removed since the change of control.

Meanwhile, Caxton joint MD Noel Coburn confirmed his group was considering a damages claim against Argus Newspapers. "For a number of years, they (Argus Newspapers) have been producing products they were not entitled to under existing contracts. That had an impact on the growth of this company. We believe we suffered damages and we are now looking at taking appropriate action," he says.

Whether Caxton files for damages probably depends on the outcome of Thursday's Supreme Court hearing. That aside, Argus Newspapers can expect increasing opposition from Caxton as it expands its publications from the traditional freesheets to paid-for weeklies such as the relaunched *West Rand Times*.

Shaun Harris

ST 9/4/95 (243)

Argus accused of fudging figures

By SUE BLAINE

A JOHANNESBURG publishing company has accused Argus Newspapers of artificially inflating circulation figures in an attempt to capture advertising.

Argus Newspapers will defend Spinner Communications' R1,7-million damages claim in the Rand Supreme Court.

On Wednesday Argus Newspapers will apply for an amendment to the

printing company's allegation that it inflated the monthly circulation numbers of The Star's hospitality guide, Star Menu, by 30 000 in an attempt to elbow Spinner's Hello Johannesburg out of that market. Both guides rely on advertising revenue.

The dispute began when Star Menu was started four years ago.

Spinner Communications alleges that it lost custom and incurred added expenses when Argus Newspapers deliberately tried to divert cus-

tom from it. Argus Newspapers says it initially printed 80 000 copies of each Star Menu edition. It later only published 50 000. The alleged false representations would have had no effect on Hello Johannesburg, said the newspaper company in court papers.

Argus Newspapers contended that it had done nothing unlawful in terms of constitutional clauses that upheld freedom of expression and economic enterprise.

Yengeni slams media

(243) Stan 10/4/95
Umtata — ANC MP Toni Yengeni criticised the media yesterday, charging it had started a campaign to discredit ANC leaders as well as advocating "sectional" interests of white South Africans.

Yengeni was speaking at a rally in Umtata to commemorate SA Communist Party leader Chris Hani, who was assassinated on April 10 1993.

He said the media had tried to describe him, Winnie Mandela, Environmental Affairs Deputy Minister Bantu Holomisa and ANC MP Peter Mokaba as radicals.

ANC leaders, who showed resilience and were vocal about their

criticism of apartheid, were now dubbed as "radicals who should be kicked out from the Government and the ANC", he said.

But those leaders had been democratically elected.

"If I'm dubbed a populist because of articulating the truth, then I'm proud to be one. It's because there is not a single newspaper in the country which is owned by blacks — all are owned by white capitalists."

Mrs Mandela, who had been expected to address the rally, was unable to do so because of a "family problem" in Johannesburg, he added. — Sapa.

Attacks on the press disturbing

■ BY KAIZER NYATSUMBA
POLITICAL EDITOR

Two weeks ago at Philippi squatter camp, just outside Cape Town, former Deputy Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Minister Winnie Mandela launched a blistering attack on Sunday Times political correspondent Edyth Bulbring, calling her "a lying journalist".

Bulbring had written a story about Mandela, and the ANC Women's League president was not happy.

A few days later, the ANC's Northern Transvaal region issued a statement, circulated through the South African Press Association for maximum publicity, taking issue with Sowetan political editor Mathata Tsedu over his analysis of the resurgence of ethn-

city in the area after the removal of former Venda president Patrick Mphephu's statue.

Tsedu, said the statement, had "a hidden agenda"

In Johannesburg on Thursday, South African Communist Party general secretary Charles Nqakula bemoaned — without giving any details — "the abject moral failing of a number of black journalists and of some newspapers directed towards a largely black readership", before tearing into The Star's political reporter, Mondli Makhanya.

Nqakula did not agree with Makhanya's analysis two weeks ago, on the opinion page of this paper, in which Makhanya was critical of the ANC leadership and argued that "populists" should be tolerated rather than punished

Makhanya's was clearly an opinion, and was marked as such. He is entitled to it, just as Tsedu is entitled to his about developments in the Northern Transvaal. Freedom of speech and expression are, after all, two of the many rights enshrined in chapter 3 of the Interim Constitution.

Incite crowds

We do not claim any special rights for ourselves, but we do believe these new developments are disturbing, if not altogether dangerous.

Politicians, like individual citizens or any other group of citizens, have a right to respond to things written about them, but they have no right to incite crowds against journalists because they don't like

what was written about them, their parties or organisations. And launching scathing attacks on journalists, by name, at emotion-charged rallies and mass meetings is certainly incitement.

It is dangerous and desperate politics. There are graves in this country of people who were killed merely for holding and expressing views which were anathema to some political hotheads.

Among the avenues open to aggrieved politicians is writing a letter to a newspaper, demanding a correction, seeking an audience with the journalist concerned, going to the Media Council, or even litigation.

We share Voltaire's view: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

Argus looks to constitution in damages claim

(24) 11/4/95

■ COURT REPORTER

Argus Newspapers will rely on the constitution, among other arguments, when it applies to have a R1,7-million damages claim by Spinner Communications struck out on exception in the Rand Supreme Court tomorrow.

Spinner Communications, a Johannesburg publishing company, has accused Argus Newspapers of artificially inflating the circulation figures of The Star newspaper's hospitality guide Star Menu by 30 000 in an attempt to capture advertising.

Argus Newspapers will be objecting to the allegation that it unlawfully inflated the monthly circulation figures of Star Menu in an attempt to elbow Spinner's Hello Johannesburg out of the market.

Both publications rely on advertising revenue and Spinner Communications has alleged it lost custom and incurred added expenses when Argus Newspapers deliberately tried to "divert custom from it".

Argus Newspapers said it initially printed 80 000 copies four years ago when Star Menu started and later published only 50 000.

The company contends this is not unlawful in terms of the constitutional clauses which uphold freedom of expression and economic enterprise.

Argus looks to constitution in damages claim

COURT REPORTER

Argus Newspapers will rely on the constitution, among other arguments, when it applies to have a R1,7-million damages claim by Spinner Communications struck out on exception in the Rand Supreme Court tomorrow.

Spinner Communications, a Johannesburg publishing company, has accused Argus Newspapers of artificially inflating the circulation figures of The Star newspaper's hospitality guide Star Menu by 30 000 in an attempt to capture advertising.

Argus Newspapers will be objecting to the allegation that it unlawfully inflated the monthly circulation figures of Star Menu in an attempt to elbow Spinner's Hello Johannesburg out of the market.

Both publications rely on ad-

ted
wo
lm
ed
ay
if
to
he
ne
as
be
te
il-
re
to
ot
s-
e

(243) 11/4/95

Argus looks to constitution in damages claim

(243) 11/4/95

■ COURT REPORTER

Argus Newspapers will rely on the constitution, among other arguments, when it applies to have a R1,7-million damages claim by Spinner Communications struck out on exception in the Rand Supreme Court tomorrow.

Spinner Communications, a Johannesburg publishing company, has accused Argus Newspapers of artificially inflating the circulation figures of The Star newspaper's hospitality guide Star Menu by 30 000 in an attempt to capture advertising.

Argus Newspapers will be objecting to the allegation that it unlawfully inflated the monthly circulation figures of Star Menu in an attempt to elbow Spinner's Hello Johannesburg out of the market.

Both publications rely on advertising revenue and Spinner Communications has alleged it lost custom and incurred added expenses when Argus Newspapers deliberately tried to "divert custom from it".

Argus Newspapers said it initially printed 80 000 copies four years ago when Star Menu started and later published only 50 000.

The company contends this is not unlawful in terms of the constitutional clauses which uphold freedom of expression and economic enterprise.

Go-ahead for Star supplements

Star 12/4/95 (213)

■ BY SUSAN MILLER

Caxton Publishers (CTP Ltd), Caxton managing director Terrence Moolman and Caxton directors Noel Coburn and Meredith Short were yesterday ordered to pay the full legal costs of Argus Newspapers, including the cost of their two legal counsel, after a Rand Supreme Court judge ruled in Argus Newspapers' favour. Mr Justice J Heher yesterday rescinded an Appeal Court order which prohibited the publication of Argus Newspapers' regional supplements.

He ruled that circumstances had materially changed in the Argus company since a restraint of trade agreement was signed with Caxton Publishers in 1980 and 1985 which

barred The Star from publishing local supplements.

Caxton Publishers applied for and received permission to appeal against Mr Justice Heher's ruling.

Legal counsel for Argus Newspapers will be applying for leave to execute Judge Heher's ruling this morning in the Rand Supreme Court.

If they are successful, Argus Newspapers will be able to continue publishing its various supplements pending the outcome of the Caxton appeal.

During his summation, Judge Heher rejected arguments advanced by Moolman about why the trade agreements should remain in place.

He said he could find no reason why the restraint agreement should be

maintained or justified after the unbundling of Argus Holdings.

The case attracted wide attention because of the changing interpretations of the law and because of the immediate effect on hundreds of thousands of readers of the supplements.

The first argument, won in the Supreme Court then lost in the Appeal Court by Argus, was over the definitions of a free newspaper and a supplement.

The current argument, won yesterday by Argus Newspapers, is over whether circumstances have changed since the original agreement between the companies.

Earlier this month, a full Bench of the Appellate Division in Bloemfontein

overturned a 1993 Rand Supreme Court decision which had found in favour of Argus Newspapers in the battle between Caxton and the Argus on whether The Star's regional supplements could be published.

After the 1993 court decision, The Star began publishing supplements such as Looking North, Looking East and Looking South.

Publication of the supplements was halted after the Appeal Court reversed the decision.

However, the Appeal Court also ruled that its decision could be reversed if Argus Newspapers could show that material changes had occurred since it signed the deal with Caxton.

► To Page 3

Argus Newspapers win case against

Caxton Publishers

(243) ARG 12/4/95
The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Caxton Publishers (CTP Ltd), Caxton managing-director Terrence Moolman and Caxton directors Noel Coburn and Meredith Short have been ordered to pay the full legal costs of Argus Newspapers, including the cost of their two legal counsel, after a Rand Supreme Court judge ruled in Argus Newspapers' favour.

Mr Justice J Heher yesterday rescinded an Appeal Court order which prohibited the publication of Argus Newspapers regional supplements. (The Appeal Court had ruled that its decision could be reversed if Argus Newspapers could show material changes had occurred since it signed the deal with Caxton.) Judge Heher ruled that circumstances had indeed materially changed in the Argus Newspapers company since a restraint of trade agreement was signed with Caxton publishers in 1980 and 1985 which barred the Star from publishing local supplements.

Caxton publishers applied for and received permission to appeal against Mr Justice Heher's ruling.

Legal counsel for Argus newspapers will be applying for leave to execute Mr Justice Heher's ruling today at the Rand Supreme Court.

If they are successful Argus will be able to continue publishing its supplements pending the outcome of the Caxton appeal.

During his summation Mr Justice Heher rejected arguments advanced by Mr Moolman on why the trade agreements should remain in place.

He said he could find no reason why the restraint agreement should be maintained or justified after the unbundling of Argus Newspapers.

Argus wins case against Caxton Publishers

(243)

CT 12/4/95

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: Caxton Publishers (CTP Ltd), Caxton managing director Mr Terrence Moolman and Caxton directors Mr Noel Coburn and Mr Meredith Short were ordered yesterday to pay the full legal costs of Argus Newspapers after a Rand Supreme Court judge ruled in Argus Newspapers' favour.

Mr Justice J Heher yesterday rescinded an Appeal Court order that prohibited the publication of Argus Newspapers regional supplements

He ruled that circumstances had materially changed in the Argus Newspapers company since a restraint of trade agreement was

signed with Caxton publishers in 1980 and 1985.

The agreement had barred The Star from publishing local supplements.

Caxton Publishers applied for and received permission to appeal against Mr Justice Heher's ruling.

Argus will apply today to continue publishing its supplements pending the outcome of the Caxton appeal.

The judge found in favour of Argus after its counsel argued that the unbundling of the Argus group and the disposal by Argus Holdings of its interests in Argus Newspapers to the Independent Newspaper Group of Ireland had materially changed conditions

Argus wins fight to publish

(243) PD 12/4/95
ARGUS Newspapers Limited were granted permission in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday to publish local supplements to rival the Caxton Group's "knock and drop" newspapers.

Judge J Heher rescinded an Appellate Division order granted in Caxton's favour last month which prohibited Argus from publishing the supplements in terms of trade restraint agreements entered into with Caxton in 1980 and 1985.

Argus was granted permission by the Appellate Division to have the order overturned in the Rand Supreme Court if the company could prove circumstances had changed so that Argus was no longer bound to the agreements.

Heher found the agreements were made after Argus's former holding company, Argus Holdings Ltd, had acquired a substantial stake in Caxton's newspa-

per business.

The agreements had been to protect a joint venture, and to prevent the companies encroaching on each other's territory.

Argus Holdings sold Argus Newspapers to Irish concern, Independent Newspapers, last year. Argus Holdings retained its stake in the Caxton Group, but the association between Argus Newspapers and Caxton was severed.

Heher found the trade restraints were enforceable only as long as there was an association between Argus Newspapers and Caxton.

The judge granted Caxton leave to appeal his decision.

Argus Newspapers is expected to apply today for leave to execute the order pending the Appellate Division's decision.

DEBORAH FINE

Argus contests damages claim

(243)

SPAN 13/4/95

■ STAFF REPORTER

Argus Newspapers yesterday launched a Rand Supreme Court bid to have Johannesburg publishing company Spinner Communications' R1,7-million damages claim struck out on exception.

Spinner Communications has accused Argus Newspapers of artificially inflating the circulation figures of The Star newspaper's hospitality guide Star Menu by 30 000 in a bid to capture advertising.

Argus denies this and is objecting to the allegation that it unlawfully inflated Star Menu's monthly circulation figures in an effort to elbow Spinner Communications' Hello Johannesburg out of the market.

Both publications rely on advertising revenue and Spinner has alleged it lost custom and incurred added expenses

when Argus allegedly tried to "divert custom from it".

Argus Newspapers said it initially printed 80 000 copies four years ago when Star Menu started, and later published only 50 000.

Besides other exceptions it is taking, the company contends this is not unlawful in terms of constitutional clauses upholding freedom of expression and economic enterprise.

Counsel for Argus Newspapers advocate Gilbert Marcus, said in argument yesterday it was not sufficient for Spinner to prove, as it alleged, that there had been deception and diversion of custom in Argus' advertising strategy for Star Menu. The company had to prove that Argus had passed itself off as Spinner Communications or had used the company's unique creation.

Judgment was reserved.

1
1
1
1
1

Argus in bid to have claim amended

ARGUS Newspapers yesterday argued an interlocutory application for an amendment to the particulars of a claim lodged by Johannesburg publishing company Spinner Communications on the grounds that the publisher's documents contained no alleged wrongdoing. **BD13/4195**

The publishing company, which produces the Johannesburg hospitality guide, Hello Johannesburg, has alleged Argus artificially inflated the circulation figures of its own hospitality guide, Star Menu, by 30 000

DEBORAH FINE

in an attempt to capture the restaurant guide market and Spinner Communications' clients.

It has sued Argus R4,2m for damages allegedly incurred when it lost custom and incurred added expenses as a result of Argus's misrepresentations

Adv Gilbert Marcus, for Argus, argued it was not sufficient for Spinner Communications' particulars of claim to simply state they had suffered losses.

The particulars of claim

had to state how the alleged falsehoods had affected and denigrated Spinners Communications' business

Schalk Burger, SC, appearing for Spinner Communications, said such detail was not necessary at this stage. **(243)**

His client was required to claim only that they had suffered financial losses as a result of Argus's misconduct to convince the court there had been a potential wrongdoing.

Judge R van Schalkwyk reserved his judgment.

Judge rules in favour of The Star, criticises Caxton head

(243) Star 15/4/95

BRENDAN TEMPLETON

CAXTON Publishers director Terry Moolman was criticised in the Rand Supreme Court this week for contradicting himself in his abortive battle against Argus Newspapers

In Mr Justice Heher's ruling against Moolman and Caxton, allowing The Star to continue publishing its popular local supplements, Moolman's statements, came in for special criticism from the judge who described them as "an extraordinary submission"

Argus Newspapers had been prevented, under a restraint of trade agreement, from publishing local newspapers in areas where Caxton

published. However, that restraint agreement had been drawn up between Caxton and Argus Holdings, the company which owned Argus Newspapers and The Star until last year

Independent Newspapers took over Argus Newspapers in 1994 and so Newspapers argued that it was no longer bound by the restraints agreed to by its former owner

Moolman, Caxton and its other directors agreed in a previous court battle, which eventually ended in the Appeal Court, that Argus Newspapers was bound because of the agreement with Holdings

But this week Moolman attempted to shift from that position by try-

ing to make out that Argus Newspapers had voluntarily taken on the obligations and benefits of the restraint agreement and was therefore still bound by it — an attitude which "presents a strange face", Judge Heher said

"Moolman was aware that there had been a transfer of assets, rights and obligations

"He does not explain how, but neither does he explain his ignorance of the foundation of the situation which had been treated as a reality by all parties since 1988," the judge said

Finding that Moolman had been tripped up by his own words, Judge Heher ruled in The Star's favour

THE RIGHT TO CRITICISE

(even if it is 'uninhibited, robust, caustic and sometimes unpleasantly sharp')

Press freedom could be radically affected by the outcome of a case which starts in Durban tomorrow.
CARMEL RICKARD reports



WHEN the matter of Buthelezi and the African National Congress is called in the Durban Supreme Court tomorrow, it will mark the start of a case which could be one of the most important yet heard in the history of press freedom and the right to criticise public figures.

Armed with the guarantees of the new constitution, lawyers acting for the ANC will urge the court to consider afresh the longstanding rules on defamation.

Taking as their model decisions of the US and other countries, they will suggest that the public and the media need far greater freedom to criticise and comment on public figures, because this is an essential element of democracy.

The case concerns a statement issued by the ANC's northern Natal branch in August last year which Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi finds objectionable. In its statement the ANC refers to the death of Mzi Mchunu, a senior MK cadre, shot inside a "Kwazulu police station" at Ulundi on April 23 last year.

The ANC complains that the Kwazulu police allowed the man who allegedly confessed to a magistrate that he had killed Mr Mchunu to leave the police station and "walk free on that day (and) for months thereafter".

THERE is also a reference to Chief Buthelezi, then minister of police in Kwazulu, and what he allegedly knew about the incident.

The summons against the ANC, brought on behalf of "Prince Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi, Minister of Home Affairs", claims that the statement alleged that he knew of the murder, the confession and the fact that the murderer was allowed to leave the police station.

The minister says these allegations are defamatory and the ANC should pay him R100 000 in compensation.

When the case comes to court tomorrow, argument will focus on a narrow issue. Not whether the ANC statement in fact defamed Chief

Buthelezi, or even whether the statement was true. But rather whether, in law, someone like the minister, holding public office, should be allowed to sue for defamation following criticism of him in his official capacity.

South African law has allowed it in the past and several officials have successfully sued for defamation — among them former Justice and Prisons Minister Peet Pelsler and more recently police general Lothar Neethling.

But the legal team appearing for the ANC will argue that the constitution changes all this.

THEY will say the new constitution protects freedom of speech and that the courts should permit a far more robust approach to criticism of public officials. Democracy depends on the ability of the public to hold officials accountable and the law should nurture democracy by ensuring that this is possible.

Under the new constitution, any law which conflicts with the constitution and its principles is invalid. The task of the ANC is therefore to prove that the existing law on defamation is contrary to the constitution.

How could this be done? The Bill of Rights enshrines the right to freedom of speech and expression, including freedom of the press. However, it also spells out that none of the rights are absolute and the court will have to consider justifiable limitations.

But in doing so, the constitution says the court may consider relevant decisions made by courts in other countries, which, like South Africa, are free, open and democratic societies.

This opens the door for the court to consider perhaps the most important and influential press freedom judgment this century, decided by the US Supreme Court in 1964.

This case, New York Times versus Sullivan, concerned an official in the deep south city of Montgomery, Alabama. Commissioner L B Sullivan, who was in charge of the city police, sued the New York Times for an advertisement it carried.

(243) ST 23/4/95

The advert was inserted by a group of prominent black community leaders, urging support for Dr Martin Luther King and protesters opposed to segregation in the south. It did not mention Mr Sullivan by name, but he claimed the public would interpret remarks about police behaviour in the city as a slur on him.

In fact, Mr Sullivan and officials in other southern cities referred to in the advert launched their legal action against the Times with the aim of curbing press reporting and comment on racism in the south. They claimed enormous damages from the Times in the hope that the paper would hold back on its reporting, and that other papers would get the message.

These officials hoped to use the libel laws to draw a veil over political developments and prevent important information reaching the rest of the country.

The Alabama court decided the case on the basis that Mr Sullivan had been libelled by the advert, and that the paper had to prove each element of the libel was true. Because the advert included a number of inaccuracies, the court found in favour of Mr Sullivan and the other officials and awarded them the full amount they had demanded, \$500 000 in the case of Mr Sullivan.

THE Times took the case to the Supreme Court despite there being no guarantee that the country's highest court would overturn the Alabama decision. Lawyers acting for the Times argued that the First Amendment to the constitution guaranteed freedom of speech. But the courts had always held that this guarantee did not extend to libel.

Rather like the pending South African case, the task of the lawyers was to convince the court that the old laws on defamation could infringe constitutional guarantees of speech and press freedom.

The court upheld this view and set new guidelines for the circumstances under which public officials may sue for defamation.

Justice Brennan, who wrote the unanimous decision, said the court considered the case

"against the background of a profound national commitment to the principle that debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust and wide-open, and that it may well include vehement, caustic and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks on government and public officials."

He decided that the existing situation led to a kind of "self-censorship", deterring would-be critics of official conduct from voicing their criticisms. For this reason, the court approved a new "test" for libel. It decided that public officials could not sue for a "defamatory falsehood relating to his official conduct", unless the official could prove that the statement was made with "actual malice".

The court defined "actual malice" as publishing a statement with the knowledge that it was false or with reckless disregard for whether it was false or not.

THIS is the key concept on which the ANC lawyers will be relying to change the South African law on defamation.

In papers filed with the Durban Supreme Court, the ANC says the minister ought to prove that the ANC published its statement with "actual malice". Since Chief Buthelezi did not allege "actual malice", the case should be dismissed.

Whatever the result of tomorrow's case, the Constitutional Court is almost certain to be asked its opinion.

If the South African courts agree with the approach adopted by the US court in New York Times versus Sullivan, and adopt the "actual malice" rule, it will mean a dramatic change. It would give the public and the media far more freedom to comment on officials without fear of being sued. Public officials, on the other hand, would have to accept that "uninhibited, robust, vehement, caustic and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks" on them, were an unavoidable element of a healthy democracy.

● Gilbert Marcus, instructed by John Walls, will appear for the ANC. Laurence Broster, instructed by Edward Thunstrom, will appear for Chief Buthelezi.

Call for tolerance to ensure free press

SAW 2/5/95 (243)

■ STAFF REPORTER

Those whose business it is to report the truth are all too often the targets of intolerance and organised crime, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation secretary-general Frederiko Mayor said in a statement ahead of World Press Freedom Day tomorrow

Mayor's statement comes with the UN's proclamation of 1995 as being the "Year of Tolerance" and coincides with the opening of Unesco's South African office, headed by a special representative of the organisation's director-general for South Africa, Louis Bernardo Honwana.

Mayor's statement said more than 130 journalists were being

held in jails around the world and over had 100 died violently

"It is more important than ever to speak up about press freedom and tolerance," he said

"While press freedom is a fundamental right that should be embodied in national law, one cannot legislate for tolerance. It should be taught from the earliest age at home"

Mandela reassures press

(243)

■ BY PATRICK BULGER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — The Government had an obligation to communicate with the public but had no wish to infringe on media independence, President Mandela told the National Assembly yesterday.

He was referring to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's proposal for the SABC to allow the Government prime time radio and TV slots to communicate its actions to the country.

Mandela said in debate that the Government welcomed the "vibrancy of public criticism and scrutiny of the working and

performance of government at all levels".

"Here we see the constitutional right to freedom of opinion and information taking life,

"In its appraisal of developments, the Government looks upon the critical media as partners in the enterprise of building a new society.

Communicate

"At the same time (the) Government has to consider its own obligation, in a democracy committed to openness and transparency, to communicate to the public what it is doing," said Mandela.

"In exploring options as

to how best to meet this obligation, there is no wish to infringe on the independence of the news media," he added.

Earlier, ANC MP and chairman of the parliamentary portfolio committee on communications, Saki Macozoma, said in a statement that the Government of National Unity's communication with the citizenry in its first year in office had been dismal.

Macozoma said recent reports on the Government's approach to the SABC had "generated more heat and propaganda than light on how the Government should communicate with the media".

STAN 4/5/95

Alarm over Press freedom and the ANC

(243)

ARG 6/5/95

DAVID BREIER
Political Staff

ALARM bells are ringing over hostile attitudes at a high level in the African National Congress towards Press freedom and the right to criticise the government of the new South Africa

The Freedom of Expression Institute has detected intolerance towards the Press among several important ANC members of the government, says the institute's chairman, Raymond Louw

The most widely publicised example is that of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, the man most likely to succeed President Mandela.

But other prominent political figures have expressed similar intolerant views, Mr Louw warned this week on World Press Freedom Day.

Mr Louw cited the case of influential Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale who talks of Press "muckraking" — which Mr Sexwale says is a guise to use Press freedom to indulge in "character assassination"

Mr Sexwale recently demanded greater publicity for himself from the SABC — in spite of the widespread coverage he already receives on TV and radio

But Mr Mbeki's attitude has caused the most concern as he is a heartbeat away from succeeding Mr Mandela as president.

Mr Mandela has already indicated his desire to step down when the life of the present

■ Concern is growing that ANC-led government members, including Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, are hostile to Press freedom.

government ends in 1999 — and Mr Mbeki is regarded as the most likely man to replace him.

Mr Mbeki recently said in an interview published in The Argus that it was normal for the media to "look at what is bad and what goes wrong" in the former apartheid government.

But he said the media should not adopt the same approach to the current democratic government.

Mr Mbeki also said "we need to persuade the SABC to allow 30 minutes a week to the government to report what it is doing"

This led to suggestions that the government wanted prime time on TV to state its case — and fears that the state-owned medium would become a propaganda platform as it was in the worst days of apartheid

While SABC chief group executive Zwelakhe Sisulu said the SABC must retain its independence, and the SABC board denied the government had asked for prime time, David Niddrie, SABC general manager of strategic planning, confirmed this week that several suggestions from Mr Mbeki had been discussed — including a prime-time slot for the government

Mr Louw said this was not the first time Mr Mbeki had

suggested the media should not criticise the new government as it had criticised the old apartheid government.

Mr Louw, an editor of the former Rand Daily Mail, once the most bitter foe of the apartheid government, said he was very concerned over Mr Mbeki's attitude to the media.

"It indicates that the deputy president does not appear to be well-versed in the practices of democracy.

"One of the cornerstones of democracy is a free press, and a free Press must be critical, observant and vigilant against the government — whether it is a democratic or a dictatorial government"

Mr Louw said that under a truly democratic government, the media was more likely to be able to perform the function of being a critical watchdog.

He said the situation was not as simple as Mr Mbeki made out — the media had the duty to exercise vigilance on any government

"There is now an even greater call on the Press to be vigilant," Mr Louw said.

The example of Mr Mbeki's recent involvement in the Allan Boesak affair was a case in point, he said, referring to an attempt by Mr Mbeki to clear Dr Boesak of misuse of foreign funds while a police investiga-

tion was still in progress.

"This indicates an attempt to short-circuit a legitimate process of investigation by the police. This is a case in point for the media to be vigilant," Mr Louw said.

He added his impression was that some other government members had similar intolerance of the Press keeping a vigilant eye on government

"I don't have concerns about Mr Mandela. He has consistently upheld the principles of Press freedom," Mr Louw said

But while Mr Louw expresses concerns on anti-Press sentiments in the government, the media aren't entirely blameless, he points out.

An incident that gave rise to Mr Mbeki's request for SABC time was TV's failure to mention a major water project in North West province when reporting Mr Mandela's speech at the time

"While it is very worrying that these attitudes are surfacing in the ANC now that it is power, I think it would be well worth the Press's while to take heed of these statements and perhaps try to rectify the imbalances in their coverage," Mr Louw said

"There is some logic to government criticism where they attempt to carry out the reconstruction and development programme and have had some successes, but the Press has not paid sufficient attention to these

"There is a case for the Press to examine its own actions as well," Mr Louw said

Mwasa ⁽²⁴³⁾ workers get 10,5 percent

By Abdul Milazi
Labour Reporter

THE Media Workers Association of South Africa settled its wage dispute with Argus Newspapers before a scheduled Conciliation Board hearing

Mwasa Southern Transvaal deputy chairman Mr Mokgadi Pela told union members at a meeting in Johannesburg yesterday that the two parties had settled at 11 percent across-the-board for the lowest paid workers and 10,5 percent for workers on higher grades. These would be backdated to April 1. Negotiations deadlocked when management refused to accede to the union's opening demand of a 12,4 percent across-the-board increase.

Management opened at 8,4 percent and later moved to 10,5 percent, which was accepted by Mwasa's counterpart, the South African Union of Journalists

Mwasa, however, rejected the offer on the grounds that members in the lowest paid category would not benefit

"We are happy with the present arrangement because workers in the lowest grades are getting more and they were our prime concern," said Pela.

Management also agreed to increase housing subsidies from R200 to R250 a month. The company further agreed to pay an additional R30 for two years for first-time home buyers and to increase the minimum wage to R1 500 a month. Employees would also be entitled to six-months maternity leave and five days paternity leave.

Draft publications control law may be passed soon

□ Pornography, aliens dominate debate on home affairs budget

(243)
ARLT 12/5/95

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

PORNOGRAPHY and illegal aliens dominated the debate on the budget of Minister of Home Affairs Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

The debate was held in an extended public committee of the national assembly yesterday. Chief Buthelezi said it was hoped that draft legislation on control of films and publications would be passed soon.

The legislation allows freedom of choice for adults on access to explicit material while banning child pornography and the depiction of bestiality and crude mixtures of sex and violence.

Desmond Lockey (ANC) said the bill did away with vague criteria for publications control. Freedom of speech and expression, including freedom of media, were guaranteed by the constitution.

But no intellectual argument could contradict the fact there were many South Africans with religious convictions who were bitterly opposed to the legalisation of pornography.

Frik van Deventer (NP) held up examples of "adult" magazines to illustrate what was freely on sale.

Petrus Groenewald (FF) said the "asshole of the month" feature in Hustler magazine was a disgrace.

His party's leader, Constand Viljoen, had featured in this article.

Dene Smuts (DP) said citizens should be given full opportunity to give their views when the parliamentary committee held hearings about the bill.

"Citizens, having had a taste — not to mention a bellyful — of Hustler and other magazines over the past year, have articulated their protest in many forms."

Mdumiseni Sikakane (ANC) said there was pornographic

material on the wall of his son's room.

"It's there on the wall because they like them."

Louis Green (ACDP) said 90 percent of those who had given evidence to the task group on publications and film control were against pornography, but their views were ignored.

Esme Chiat (NP) said parents should accept greater responsibility in educating their children, after having relied on the state to protect their morality.

Replying to the debate, Chief Buthelezi said nine out of 10 letters written to him were about publications control.

He was regularly sent petitions against the legalisation of pornography, and was asked how as a Christian he could allow it. He had a duty to uphold the constitution.

● Referring to illegal aliens, Chief Buthelezi said 90 692 were repatriated last year, mainly to Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Lesotho.

An inter-departmental committee appointed by the cabinet last year was working on ways to combat the problem.

Mr Lockey said his party strongly condemned witch-hunts by South Africans against illegal aliens.

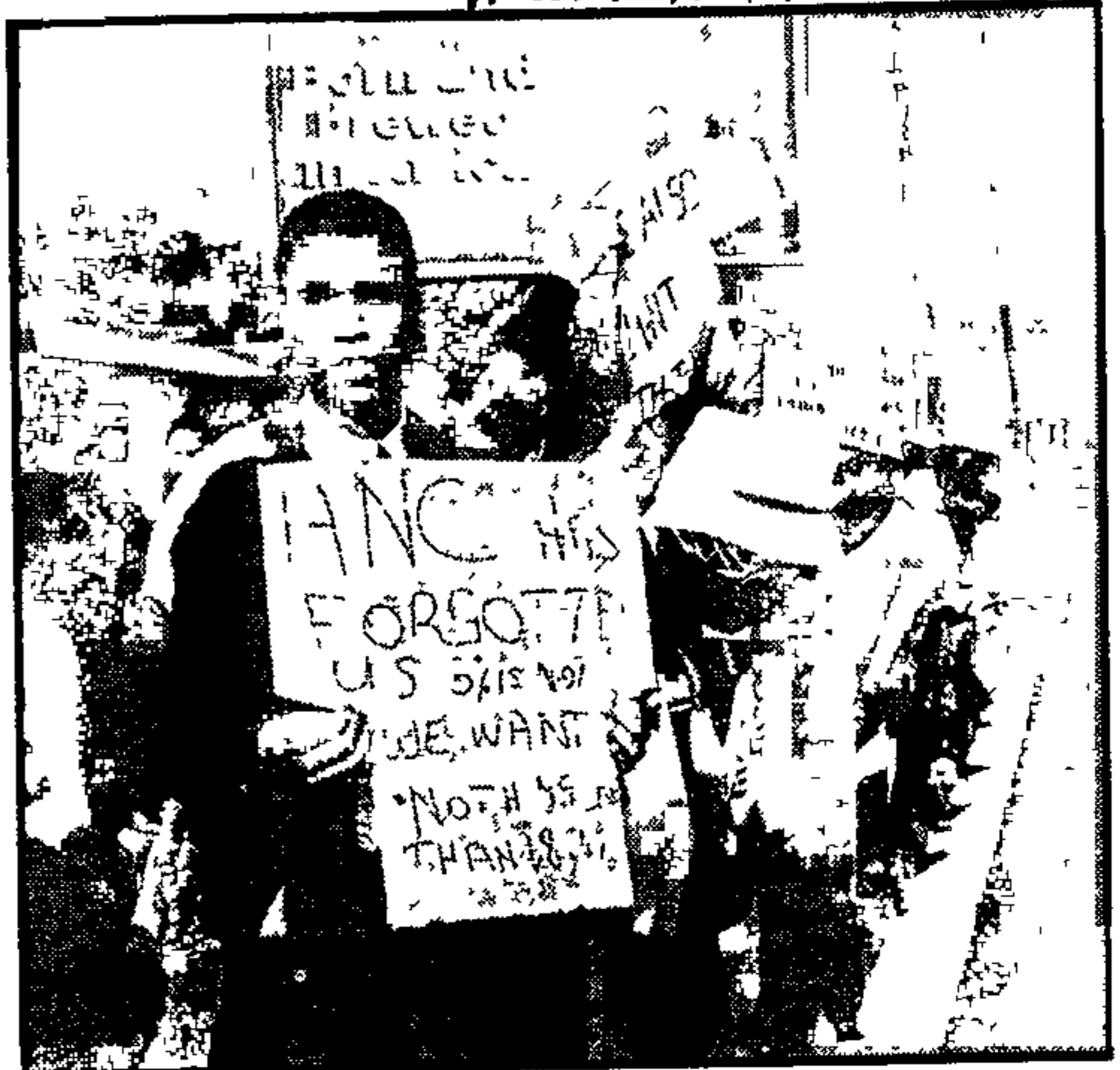
In other points in the debate:

● Miley Richards (ANC) called for recognition of all marriages including religious marriages.

"I am still regarded as illegitimate although my mother married my father in a mosque and they were married by a religious leader."

● Petrus Groenewald (FF) said his party would move formally that Ascension Day be reinstated as a paid public holiday.

● Jannie Momberg (ANC) said public holidays should be spread out better to avoid carnage on the country's roads.



ON THE LINE: Guguletu teachers, all members of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union, picket in support of an 18 percent salary increase. The Department of Education has offered them a five percent raise, after an initial offer of just 1,5 percent. Sadtu says five percent is "peanuts". Teachers across the country have planned protest marches for today to hand memorandums to education department offices.

Attack on freedom of Press 'misconstrued'

DEPUTY President Thabo Mbeki's attack on the media for criticising the government has been completely misunderstood and the Press had no reason to fear it would be muted if and when Mr Mbeki succeeded President Mandela.

This is the view of Mr Mbeki's spokesman, Thami Ntente. He was responding to recent criticism of what has been viewed by the media as intolerance by the ANC and especially Mr Mbeki of press freedom.

A remark by Mr Mbeki that it was normal for the media to look at what was bad in the apartheid government, but that it should not adopt the same approach to the current democratic government, has been cited as an example of what is seen by the media as increasing sensitivity in ANC circles and the government towards criticism.

The Freedom of Expression Institute has said it was not just the deputy president who has expressed hostility towards the media. Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale's recently referred to the media as guilty of "muckraking" and accused it of "using press freedom to indulge in character assassination".

Mr Ntente refuted the charges. The government and the ANC, he stressed, were committed to freedom of expression and of the Press. These were cardinal principles of the country's new democracy enshrined in the constitution, he said.

"Inasmuch as we say the government must be tolerant and accept criticism and opposing views from the media and any quarter, we also believe the media must show that same tolerance and understanding of criticisms levelled at it by the government."

"To say the deputy president has criticised the media is a misnomer. All he is saying is that within the context of the new South Africa, which is in the process of transformation, the media must also examine its role within the process of these changes," Mr Ntente said.

Mr Ntente said he welcomed Weekend Argus's initiative in seeking the deputy

Thabo Mbeki's reluctance to accept media criticism of the government is not as sinister as it seems, say his aides. By Weekend Argus Reporter **MXOLISI MGXASHE**



THABO MBEKI: Most outspoken critic in the ANC of the media's coverage of government performance

president's response to recent media criticism on this issue because he had been considering writing a letter to the editor to straighten the record once and for all, although he said he was not certain how much of his response would have been printed.

He cited as an example of unfair media criticism the fact that the government had not moved as fast as people wanted in meeting its promises. He said this was simplistic.

"Before you start building houses for the needy you also have to begin with the process of planning. You would like to identify the land and do other things in a manner that would, of course, not be seen as perpetuating the same apartheid practices which had designated certain areas as black or as

would have to take its course, without interference. **ARGUS 13/5/95** (243)

Mr Ntente stressed that it was very important for the media in its criticism to identify the problems the country and the government were facing and come out with a more analytical approach and not merely to "criticise for the sake of criticising".

He said he thought the media was much more free today than it had ever been.

"The other mistake the media makes is to think that the ANC and the government are one and the same thing and to forget that within the GNU there is the NP and the IFP too. And when the government rightfully seeks more coverage on the SABC this is misinterpreted as a bid by the ANC to broadcast its propaganda."

"Yet all the government is saying is this. When there are problems the Press is the first to criticise us, and yet when we accomplish good things these do not see the light of day in the media. That is why we feel the government must be given this extra slot, which will provide it with an opportunity to explain its own case because in the end the government is responsible to no one but the people of this country who voted it into power."

"And all the ministers who may belong to different parties have the right to tell the people what they have achieved and where they have failed. We certainly endorse the media's role as a watchdog for our newly-won democracy," Mr Ntente declared.

He said while the media's free expression was a healthy and democratic exercise, it must also be careful not to infringe upon the freedom of others in exercising that duty by compromising their privacy.

Mr Ntente said the deputy president was a friend of the media and a champion of freedom of expression.

He had demonstrated that attitude not only in this country, but also in other African countries, where he has called for the enactment of freedom of information laws that would show people their governments were committed to freedom of expression, transparency and democracy.

Argus and unions

settle wage dispute

(243) (15) *Spar 17/5/95*
Argus Newspapers announced yesterday that it had settled on an effective 10,5% across-the-board wage increase, following disputes with all three of its trade unions earlier this year.

Argus management said it had looked at special issues raised by the three unions — the SA Typographical Union, the Media Workers' Association of SA and the SA Union of Journalists — and decided that some benefits should be extended to all staff.

Management said in a

statement that benefits included an increase in its housing subsidy to a maximum of R250 a month; a R1 500 minimum wage; five days' paternity leave every two years; and improved maternity benefits.

Gauteng regional managing director Deon du Plessis said he was happy the agreement had been achieved and hoped it would herald a new "business partnership" with the unions. "We will work together to further our mutual objective," he said. — Staff Reporter

Government criticised over media

(243) WM 26/5-1/6/95

Gaye Davis

MEDIA-BASHING and government-run media slots offered no solution to the problems the government was having in informing people about what it was doing, ANC MP Carl Niehaus said this week.

Calling for an urgent presidential commission to investigate how government communicates, Niehaus said the South African Communications Service (Sacs), formerly the propaganda arm of the National Party government, was an "entirely unreconstructed" organisation. He was speaking during a Sacs budget vote debate on Wednesday.

In what could be interpreted as veiled criticism of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, under whose portfolio it falls, Niehaus said Sacs, whose budget last year was almost R52-million, had not been subjected to the detailed scrutiny other key institutions had faced. While there were "many good people within it, dedicated to free and open information", it still carried baggage from the past.

Government had started delivering, Niehaus said. "Why then the sensitivity about how the government and its work are being perceived? Is it because the media in this country is not always accurately and adequately reflecting the progress we are making for ordinary people? Or does at least some of the problem lie closer to home?"

"Our aim must be to ensure that those who communicate on behalf of the government do so fairly, effectively and in a manner which better equips the media to reflect on what we are doing." People had a right to know what the government was doing. But there could be little purpose in "declaring the media to be an enemy as a first justification for withdrawing from an ongoing engagement with them in favour of government-run or controlled media slots".

Mbeki said assessing Sacs' role could not be done without addressing all other information structures within government. He said a conference of all central and provincial government communicators had been planned for August to recommend a "comprehensive and all-embracing government communication policy", including the issue of government-controlled media slots.

Eight complaints upheld, 16 dismissed

Star 27/5/95 (243)

The Argus investigative charter

Below is the charter according to which the Argus Investigative Unit, under Editor David Allen, will operate. The unit is based in Johannesburg and can be contacted at (011) 633-2577, or through any Argus newspaper.

- □ □
- 1 The Argus Investigative Unit will hold the public's right to know about matters of importance to be paramount. It will fight vigorously any measure to conceal facts of public interest, to prevent public access to the news, or to curtail freedom of speech.
- 2 Therefore
- 3 The Argus Investigative Unit will continue to expose wrongdoing, misuse of power and unnecessary secrecy wherever these may exist.
- 4 In doing so, it will not ponder to personal or sectional interest, but be solely concerned with the public interest.
- 5 The unit will attempt to serve the public interest through fair and balanced reporting. Should it feel the need to comment on issues, such comment will be identified as such.
- 6 It will always endeavour to verify information through more than one source. If this should not be possible, it will say so.
- 7 It will respect the individual's right to privacy at all times except where this conflicts with the public interest.
- 8 It will identify sources wherever possible. But where there are good reasons to guarantee confidentiality, such confidentiality will be vigorously protected.
- 9 The unit will not pay money for information.

THE Press Council yesterday delivered its judgment in a case brought by Armscor against Weekend Star over a series of articles it published in December 1994 and January this year on the Helderberg disaster.

Of the 26 separate complaints brought by Armscor, the Press Council upheld eight, dismissed 16 and partially dismissed two. No fine or reprimand was imposed.

The council said in its judgment that the main thrust of the finding had gone in favour of Armscor, and that this was a "sufficient sanction" against Weekend Star.

Armscor was asked yesterday for its comment on the judgment, but spokesman Krish Naidoo said the arms corporation did not want to break the embargo for 8am today set by Professor Kobus van Rooyen, chairman of the Press Council. Armscor will issue a press statement later today, he said.

In its finding, the Press Council endorsed the principle of

newspapers using anonymous sources, a matter which was strenuously challenged by Armscor throughout the hearing.

In the light of some of the comments made in his judgment by Van Rooyen, the Argus Investigative Unit under David Allen, who was editor of Weekend Star (which no longer exists under this title) at the time the articles in dispute were published, has moved to draw up a charter to set guidelines for its investigations.

This is the first time such a charter has been created specifically for investigative journalism. The charter appears on this page today.

Allen said yesterday he thought the ordinary reader would be unlikely to support the Press Council's assessment that Armscor had succeeded in the main thrust of its complaints. "The council did not fine or reprimand the newspaper even though it has the authority to do so," he said.

According to the Press Council

Weekend Star had misrepresented allegations as fact in reporting three issues and had failed to obtain verification from Armscor for its reporting on another three issues.

Armscor had also complained that the Weekend Star articles, read as a whole, constituted a "propaganda campaign" to discredit Armscor. The Press Council rejected this complaint.

It also rejected Armscor's objection to a statement by Weekend Star that there were an astonishing number of inconsistencies and unanswered questions in the wake of the Helderberg crash. The Press Council said that to find that this statement transgressed the Press Council code of conduct "would seriously limit the media's right to raise other possibilities. This right is part and parcel of media freedom and is recognised throughout the democratic world."

The complaints dismissed by the Press Council included issues at the core of Weekend

Star's investigation, including the fundamental point of whether the newspaper had the right to explore questions left unanswered by the Margo Commission which investigated the Helderberg crash. In fact, the judgment reiterated a newspaper's duty to explore such things.

Other issues on which Armscor's complaints were rejected included Weekend Star's statement that the death of Armscor employee Helme Spynman was a mystery that substances known as super mercury cyanate and red mercury existed, that allegations that the Helderberg transported drums containing something labelled "tropical fish" was adequately qualified.

For procedural reasons the council also dismissed Armscor's complaint against Weekend Star asserting that the pilot of the Helderberg, Captain Dawie Uys, was concerned about his cargo and that he was told to fly on. The Press Council also accepted that Weekend Star's assertion that there were

two fires on the Helderberg would have been read as speculative opinion.

"On the other hand, readers can judge for themselves the weight of criticisms that were upheld," said Allen. The complaints were

1. Armscor and Weekend Star disagreed on the construction to be placed on a sentence referring to murder arising from arms dealing. The Press Council accepted Armscor's construction.

2. The Press Council thought that quotation marks should have been placed around the words "international criminals" when referring to the activities of Armscor agents such as the Coventry Four.

3. The statement that rocket fuel had been placed on the Helderberg was "too bold", it said.

4. Armscor should have been asked to verify that the South African missile programme had been delayed, according to the council.

Armscor should also have been asked to comment on the interpretation of document called Log 17 and another document called Order R1076.

6. A Weekend Star claim which 'insinuated that Armscor transported dangerous substances illegally by air' was based on an Armscor document that "confirms that such a route had been agreed to". But the document did not say the route had actually been used.

7. The Press Council found that a statement that Armscor officials sometimes carried in small dangerous goods in their hand luggage should have been "verified" with Armscor, despite a public statement by an Armscor official that it could happen, but would not be authorised.

The above list constitutes the thrust of the criticisms upheld by the Press Council, after considering 32 separate news reports published between October 1994 and January 1995.

Extract from findings of the Press Council

SHOW 27/5/95 (243)

The Press Council's 39-page judgment in the Armscor complaint concludes with a section titled "sanctions". This is a shortened version of the section

The Helderberg and the cause of its crash:

The main thrust of the complaints in this regard can be divided into items stating as a fact that Armscor was involved, and items which were employed to strengthen this case

The first category consists of items stating as a fact that rocket fuel was loaded by Armscor on the Helderberg, that fuel was stolen in the USA, that Armscor searched for rocket fuel after the crash and found it in a South American country

These items all amounted to a transgression of the code for having stated the items as facts without providing a sufficient build-up for them. Hearsay was elevated to fact

In the second category the supporting "evidence" is found: the existence of "red mercury", Dr Barnaby's support for the theory, the "missing" cargo manifest, the two fire theory, the "cursing" of the pilot, the Armscor men searching for "drums", the agents who did not know the IATA rules on dangerous goods, the SAA crew member who had seen a "missile" at Tel Aviv airport in 1983, "John Rey" who says that he processed 45 passports for Armscor men. The complaints on these articles were dismissed, not because the items are true, but because the likely reader would evaluate them for what they are: rumour, conjecture, opinion, hearsay and originating from an unidentified source

On the whole, the complaints went in favour of Armscor thereby sustaining Armscor's case that there were no reasonable grounds to report as a fact that it had cargo on the Helderberg

Secondly, there were complaints that there should have been verification since an incorrect deduction had been made from documents or regulations. a) the Log 17 document which was said to reveal that Armscor had sold frequency hopping equipment to African countries which made it easier to intercept or jam their transmissions, b) that Week-

end Star had a document which revealed that a route for the importation of pyrotechnics through Africa was approved and used, c) that Order 1077, a regulation, designated Armscor as the variation authority in regard to transport of dangerous goods on aircraft

It was held that Log 17 had been misinterpreted, that the route document only agreed to a route and was not evidence of the utilisation of that route and that Order 1077 designated the Director of Civil Aviation as the variation authority — all items should at least have been verified. The code had accordingly been transgressed. The complaints were upheld

Thirdly, it was complained that Weekend Star had been guilty of misrepresentation the implication of Armscor in the deaths of employees, that some of the Armscor procurement officers had become international criminals, that a former unidentified member of the procurement team had said that dangerous (armament) parts were at times car-

Participants: Council, complainant, respondent

The Press Council of South Africa hearing on the Helderberg coverage took place in March and April this year. The complainant was the Armaments Corporation of South Africa Limited, and the respondent was Weekend Star

The council panel comprised Professor Kobus van Rooyen, chairperson, F Peer, public representative, and J de Wet, the co-opted press representative. The council's conciliator was Ed Linington

Armscor was represented by Dr Andre Buys, assisted by N Campher and F Quass from attorneys Gildenhuys, Van der Merwe

Weekend Star was represented by Rex Gibson, assisted by P Reynolds and M Fried from attorneys Webber Wentzel Bowers

ried on aircraft. The panel held that there was no evidence of murder, that the term international criminals should have been qualified by inverted commas and that the third item should have included the denial and explanation which had previously been published by The Citizen and Sunday Times. The complaints were upheld.

Fourthly, there were some general matters that Weekend Star had waged a propaganda campaign against Armscor spread over 32 articles in eight issues, that there was an astonishing number of inconsistencies and unanswered questions in the wake of the Helderberg inquiry, that the death of a former Armscor employee, Helmie Snyman, was clouded in mystery

These complaints were dismissed on the basis that the media had the right and duty to address matters of public interest — and that in so far as the inquiry was concerned, there was no allegation that it had been improperly conducted. It was also held that Weekend Star was entitled to raise the death of Helmie Snyman as a mystery. Both sides were given, and it was presented as opinion

Fifthly, three complaints were not adjudicated upon in the light of the procedural arrangement that items not relevant to Armscor would not be adjudicated upon. They were complaints concerning the pilot who had been "ordered" to fly on in spite of a first fire, that he was cursing those who had ordered him to accept the cargo; and that the ZUR tapes went missing

Sixthly, a further question raised at the hearing was whether Weekend Star should not have verified a statement by a Mrs Gerstl, that an SAA manager had told her that the pilot had been unhappy about the cargo, with the "SAA manager"

The panel felt this should have been done, but that procedurally it could not pronounce on this matter. The complainant did not claim that verification should have been done with the "SAA manager" at Jan Smuts in its formal complaint. The claim that verification should have been done with the "SAA manager" in Taipei was not justified. This complaint was accordingly dismissed

Eight complaints upheld, 16 dismissed

Star 27/5/95

243

The Argus investigative charter

Below is the charter according to which the Argus Investigative Unit, under Editor David Allen, will operate. The unit is based in Johannesburg and can be contacted at (011) 633-2577, or through any Argus newspaper.

- □ □
- 1 The Argus Investigative Unit will hold the public's right to know about matters of importance to be paramount. It will fight vigorously any measure to conceal facts of public interest, to prevent public access to the news, or to curtail freedom of speech.
- 2 Therefore:
- 1 The Argus Investigative Unit will continue to expose wrongdoing, misuse of power and unnecessary secrecy wherever these may exist.
- 2 In doing so, it will not pay defer to personal or sectional interests, but be solely concerned with the public interest.
- 3 The unit will attempt to serve the public interest through fair and balanced reporting. Should it feel the need to comment on issues, such comment will be identified as such.
- 4 It will always endeavour to verify information through more than one source. If this should not be possible, it will say so.
- 5 It will respect the individual's right to privacy at all times except where this conflicts with the public interest.
- 6 It will identify sources wherever possible. But where there are good reasons to guarantee confidentiality, such confidentiality will be vigorously protected.
- 7 The unit will not pay money for information.

THE Press Council yesterday delivered its judgment in a case brought by Armscor against Weekend Star over a series of articles it published in December 1994 and January this year on the Helderberg disaster.

Of the 26 separate complaints brought by Armscor, the Press Council upheld eight, dismissed 16 and partially dismissed two. No fine or reprimand was imposed.

The council said in its judgment that "the main thrust of the finding had gone in favour of Armscor" and that this was a "sufficient sanction" against Weekend Star.

Armscor was asked yesterday for its comment on the judgment, but spokesman Krish Naidoo said the arms corporation did not want to break the embargo for 8am today set by Professor Kobus van Rooyen, chairman of the Press Council. Armscor will issue a press statement later today, he said. In its finding, the Press Council endorsed the principle of

newspapers using anonymous sources, a matter which was strenuously challenged by Armscor throughout the hearing.

In the light of some of the comments made in his judgment by Van Rooyen, the Argus Investigative Unit under David Allen, who was editor of Weekend Star (which no longer exists under this title) at the time the articles in dispute were published, has moved to draw up a charter to set guidelines for its investigations.

This is the first time such a charter has been created specifically for investigative journalism. The charter appears on this page today.

Allen said yesterday he thought the ordinary reader would be unlikely to support the Press Council's assessment that Armscor had succeeded in the main thrust of its complaints. "The council did not fine or reprimand the newspaper even though it has the authority to do so," he said. According to the Press Council,

Weekend Star had misrepresented allegations as fact in reporting three issues and had failed to obtain verification from Armscor for its reporting on another three issues. Armscor had also complained that the Weekend Star articles, read as a whole, constituted a "propaganda campaign to discredit Armscor." The Press Council rejected this complaint. It also rejected Armscor's objection to a statement by Weekend Star that there were an astonishing number of inconsistencies and unanswered questions in the wake of the Helderberg crash. The Press Council said that to find that this statement transgressed the Press Council code of conduct "would seriously limit the media's right to raise other possibilities. This right is part and parcel of media freedom and is recognised throughout the democratic world."

The complaints dismissed by the Press Council included Star's investigation, including the fundamental point of whether the newspaper had the right to explore questions left unanswered by the Margo Commission which investigated the Helderberg crash. In fact, the judgment reiterated a newspaper's duty to explore such things. Other issues on which Armscor's complaints were rejected included Weekend Star's statement that the death of Armscor employee Helme Snyman was a mystery; that substances known as super mercury cyanate and red mercury existed, that allegations that the Helderberg transported drums containing something labelled "tropical fish" was adequately qualified. For procedural reasons the council also dismissed Armscor's complaint against Weekend Star asserting that the pilot of the Helderberg, Captain Dawie Uys, was concerned about his cargo and that he was told to fly on. The Press Council also accepted that Weekend Star's assertion that there were

two fires on the Helderberg would have been read as speculative opinion.

"On the other hand, readers can judge for themselves the weight of criticisms that were upheld," said Allen. The complaints were:

1. Armscor and Weekend Star disagreed on the construction to be placed on a sentence referring to murder arising from arms dealing. The Press Council accepted Armscor's construction.
2. The Press Council thought that quotation marks should have been placed around the words "international criminals" when referring to the activities of Armscor agents such as the Coventry Four.
3. The statement that rocket fuel had been placed on the Helderberg was "too bold", it said.
4. Armscor should have been asked to "verify" that the South African missile programme had been delayed, according to the council.

Armscor should also have been asked to comment on the interpretation of document called Log 17 and another document called Order R1076.

A Weekend Star claim which "insinuated that Armscor transported dangerous substances illegally by air" was based on an Armscor document that "confirms that such a route had been agreed to." But the document did not say the route had actually been used.

The Press Council found that a statement that Armscor officials sometimes carried small dangerous goods in their hand luggage should have been "verified" with Armscor, despite a public statement by an Armscor official that it could happen, but would not be authorised.

The above list constitutes the thrust of the criticisms upheld by the Press Council, after considering 32 separate news reports published between October 1994 and January 1995.

Armscor should also have been asked to comment on the interpretation of document called Log 17 and another document called Order R1076.

Eight complaints upheld, 16 dismissed

Star 27/5/95 (243)

The Argus investigative charter

Below is the charter according to which the Argus Investigative Unit, under Editor David Allen, will operate. The unit is based in Johannesburg and can be contacted at (011) 633-2577, or through any Argus newspaper.

- □ □
- 4 It will always endeavour to verify information through more than one source. If this should not be possible, it will fight vigorously any measure to conceal facts of public interest, to prevent public access to the news, or to curtail freedom of speech.
- Therefore:
- 1 The Argus Investigative Unit will continue to expose wrongdoing, misuse of power and unnecessary secrecy wherever these may exist.
- 2 In doing so, it will not hinder to personal or sectional interest, but be solely concerned with the public interest.
- 3 The unit will attempt to serve the public interest through fair and balanced reporting. Should it feel the need to comment on issues, such comment will be identified as such.
- 4 It will always endeavour to verify information through more than one source. If this should not be possible, it will fight vigorously any measure to conceal facts of public interest, to prevent public access to the news, or to curtail freedom of speech.
- Therefore:
- 1 The Argus Investigative Unit will continue to expose wrongdoing, misuse of power and unnecessary secrecy wherever these may exist.
- 2 In doing so, it will not hinder to personal or sectional interest, but be solely concerned with the public interest.
- 3 The unit will attempt to serve the public interest through fair and balanced reporting. Should it feel the need to comment on issues, such comment will be identified as such.

THE Press Council yesterday delivered its judgment in a case brought by Armscor against Weekend Star over a series of articles it published in December 1994 and January this year on the Heiderberg disaster.

Of the 26 separate complaints brought by Armscor, the Press Council upheld eight, dismissed 16 and partially dismissed two. No fine or reprimand was imposed.

The council said in its judgment that "the main thrust of the finding had gone in favour of Armscor" and that this was a "sufficient sanction" against Weekend Star.

Armscor was asked yesterday for its comment on the judgment, but spokesman Krish Naidoo said the arms corporation did not want to break the embargo for 8am today set by Professor Kobus van Rooyen, chairman of the Press Council. Armscor will issue a press statement later today, he said.

In its finding, the Press Council endorsed the principle of

newspapers using anonymous sources, a matter which was strenuously challenged by Armscor throughout the hearing.

In the light of some of the comments made in his judgment by Van Rooyen, the Argus Investigative Unit under David Allen, who was editor of Weekend Star (which no longer exists under this title) at the time the articles in dispute were published, has moved to draw up a charter to set guidelines for its investigations.

This is the first time such a charter has been created specifically for investigative journalism. The charter appears on this page today.

Allen said yesterday he thought the ordinary reader would be unlikely to support the Press Council's assessment that Armscor had succeeded in the main thrust of its complaints. "The council did not fine or reprimand the newspaper even though it has the authority to do so," he said.

According to the Press Council

Weekend Star had misrepresented allegations as fact in reporting three issues and had failed to obtain verification from Armscor for its reporting on another three issues.

Armscor had also complained that the Weekend Star articles, read as a whole, constituted a "propaganda campaign" to discredit Armscor. The Press Council rejected this complaint.

It also rejected Armscor's objection to a statement by Weekend Star that there were "an astonishing number of inconsistencies and unanswered questions" in the wake of the Heiderberg crash. The Press Council said that to find that this statement transgressed the Press Council code of conduct "would seriously limit the media's right to raise other possibilities. This right is part and parcel of media freedom and is recognised throughout the democratic world."

The complaints dismissed by the Press Council included issues at the core of Weekend

Star's investigation including the fundamental point of whether the newspaper had the right to explore questions left unanswered by the Margo Communion which investigated the Heiderberg crash. In fact, the judgment reiterated a newspaper's duty to explore such things.

Other issues on which Armscor's complaints were rejected included Weekend Star's statement that the death of Armscor employee Helms Snyman was a mystery; that substances known as super mercuric cyanate and red mercury existed, that allegations that the Heiderberg transported drums containing something labelled "tropical fish" was adequately qualified.

For procedural reasons the council also dismissed Armscor's complaint against Weekend Star asserting that the pilot of the Heiderberg, Captain Dawie Uys, was concerned about his cargo and that he was told to fly on. The Press Council also accepted that Weekend Star's assertion that there were

two fires on the Heiderberg would have been read as speculative opinion.

On the other hand, readers can judge for themselves the weight of criticisms that were upheld," said Allen. The complaints were

1 Armscor and Weekend Star disagreed on the construction to be placed on a sentence referring to murder arising from arms dealing. The Press Council accepted Armscor's construction.

2 The Press Council thought that quotation marks should have been placed around the words "international criminals" when referring to the activities of Armscor agents such as the Coventry Four.

3 The statement that rocket fuel had been placed on the Heiderberg was "too bold", it said.

4 Armscor should have been asked to "verify" that the South African missile programme had been delayed, according to the council.

5 Armscor should also have been asked to comment on the interpretation of document called Log 17 and another document called Order R1076.

6 A Weekend Star claim which "insinuated that Armscor transported dangerous substances illegally by air" was based on an Armscor document that "confirms that such a route had been agreed to". But the document did not say the route had actually been used.

7 The Press Council found that a statement that Armscor officials sometimes carried small dangerous goods in their hand luggage should have been "verified" with Armscor, despite a public statement by an Armscor official that it could happen, but would not be authorised.

The above list constitutes the thrust of the criticisms upheld by the Press Council, after considering 32 separate news reports published between October 1994 and January 1995.

Press panned by ANC leader

(243) Star 9/6/95

Cape Town — South Africa's monopoly print media had failed South Africans in a crucial period of their history, Saki Macozoma (ANC) said yesterday.

"Notwithstanding the celebrated examples of the courage and vision of the South African print media, their collective record is a woeful one," he said in the broadcasting budget vote in Parliament.

The print media had failed South Africa in its crucial period of transition.

Stampede

"It is parochial, racist, impervious to the real issues, peddles unfounded pessimism, lacks courage and is petulantly intolerant of criticism which it mechanically and often arrogantly dismisses as an attack on press freedom."

He was reacting to yesterday's 8am news on SAfm which was sponsored by the Financial Mail, advertising its forthcoming article on the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

The commercial was "most uncomplimentary" and bordered on the abusive, Macozoma said.

The Weekly Mail had also carried a two page article in which it labelled the IBA as the "Inept Broadcasting Authority".

The intention behind both articles was to stampede the IBA into granting licences to the same vested interests that controlled the print media, he said. They also aimed at discrediting the IBA even before it had completed its recommendations — Sapa.

Draft 'access' Bill will affect firms

15/6/95

243

Adrian Hadland

CAPE TOWN — All private sector companies will be compelled to provide clients and individuals with fuller access to information, according to draft legislation being considered by Cabinet.

The original intention was to improve access to information held by government departments and institutions, but the team drafting the Open Democracy Bill had decided to extend it to include the pri-

vate sector, team head and government legal advisor Mojanku Gumbi told a news briefing yesterday.

The Bill is unlikely to force companies to reveal strategic information but will allow individuals to request and check personal details as well as to "argue and put pressure" on companies to correct data or credit ratings.

During extensive consultations, private sector representatives had indicated they were concerned with the creation of legal duties and the implied costs envisioned by the Bill, Gumbi said. "They instinctively think they will have to spend money."

Gumbi said that while the objective of including the private sector, which often had great power over the lives of individuals, was to prevent abuse and allow the correction of inaccurate or incomplete data, she conceded there could be constitutional problems with the legislation.

Section 23 of the Constitution did not specifically include the private sector, Gumbi said.

The legal team, however, had decided that the ambit of the Bill could be extended in this direction.

A further problem concerned the disputed notion of the vertical and horizontal applicability of the constitution, whether only the state or also other sectors of society could be bound by it.

The main purposes of the Bill were to give citizens access to information and important government meetings, to protect personal privacy and to protect officials wanting to disclose crime, maladministration or corruption.

The Bill proposes the establishment of an "open democracy commission" to supervise the application of the legislation, and an information court — which will fall within the Supreme Court — to enforce its directives.

Contravention of the law, once it is adopted, will give complainants recourse to civil remedies.

The draft Bill will be considered by a Cabinet committee next week.

The NP welcomed the Bill but expressed reservations about some provisions. "Care needs to be taken that in the laudable effort to create greater openness and accountability, the operation of the government is not detrimentally affected."

aicor

or Limited

number 87/04493/06)



oup Limited

number 87/00432/06)

f
S
in
2%
ere
cal
rch
of
er-
ral
it
ns,
of
ns.
alf
red
-ld
gis-
est
est

Freedom of information bill unveiled

ANTHONY JOHNSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

(243) (307A)
CT 15/6/95

THE government unveiled a draft law yesterday that could make it easier for ordinary citizens to get information about the inner workings of the government — ending decades of official secrecy in government.

The Open Democracy Bill, which spells out the public's right to freedom of information on most government bodies and meetings, will be considered by a cabinet committee next Wednesday and the full executive in a fortnight.

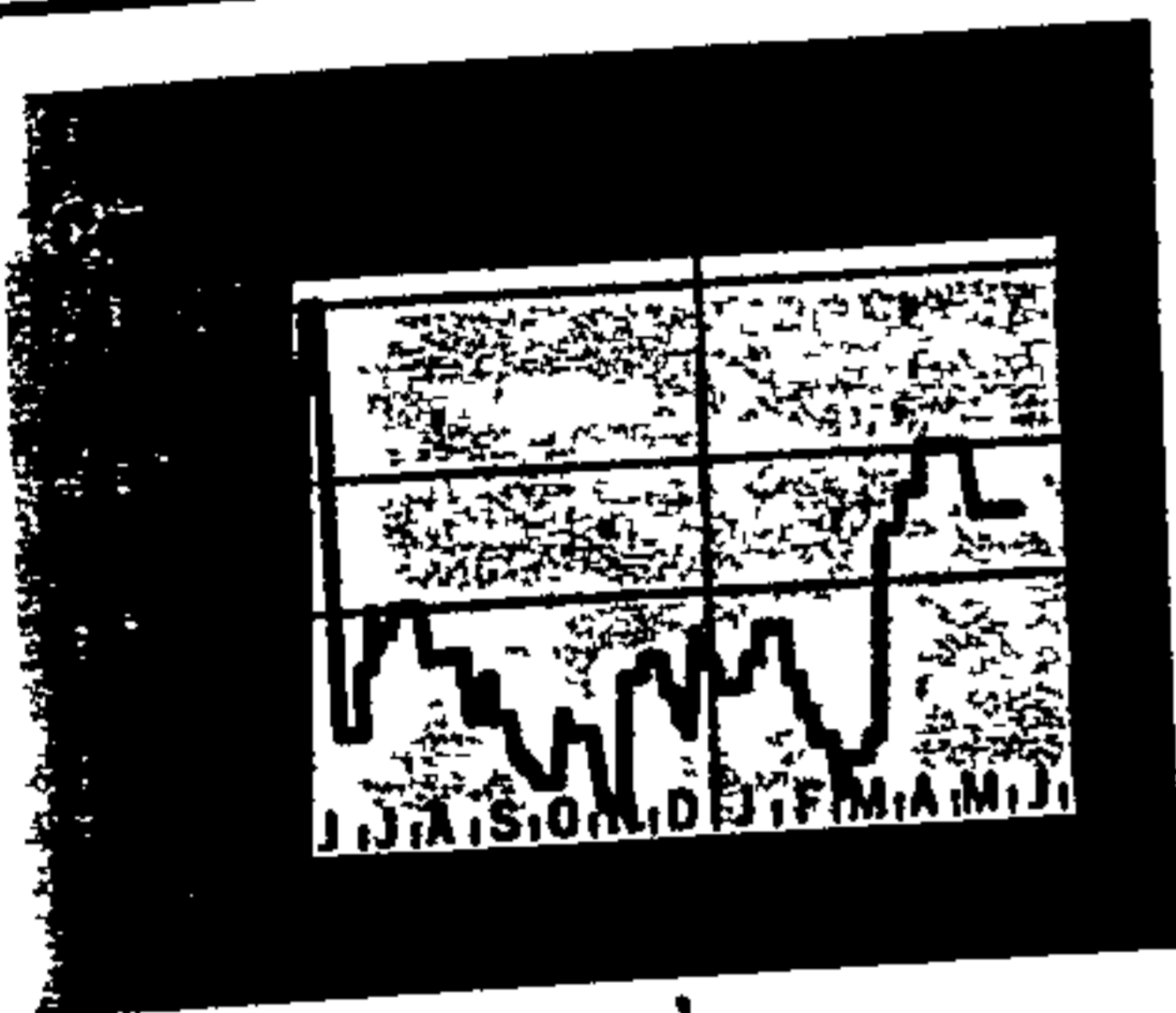
The bill includes a "whistle-blowing" clause that prohibits the victimisation of officials who disclose details about government corruption, lawbreaking and maladministration.

Members of the task force who drafted the legislation, Professor Mandla Mchunu and advocate Ms Mojunku Gumbi, emphasised during a briefing yesterday that the government would have to take the initiative in making information available to the public. They could publish manuals detailing their functions and the documents they held or include information in telephone books.

The legislation proposes that an Open Democracy Commission and an Information Court be set up to supervise the application of the act and to ensure the public's requests are dealt with rapidly and fairly.

However, the draft law does make provision for some categories of information — such as those relating to national security — to be exempted from disclosure.

A full list of exemptions will be released soon.



ered by its 13 main publications. As long as the economy grows, cash generation and earnings growth from this source should remain strong. The problem is that in a downturn Argus, in its present form, has little diversification to protect its earnings base.

Prospects for new ventures like *Business Report*, which on current advertising ratios must surely be losing money, and the soon-to-be-launched new Sunday paper are less clear. Argus has already been burned in the Sunday market and the confusion surrounding the launch of *Business Report* must raise questions about the group's marketing strategy.

That's the downside to the share. The interest is in an overseas shareholder which is clearly committed to pumping capital into Argus and, of course, in O'Reilly himself. Indeed, a fair amount of the price investors are prepared to pay for the share must be an O'Reilly premium. Flattering as that may be to the man, on fundamentals the share looks expensive

Shawn Harris

ARGUS NEWSPAPERS (243) Premium on the man (195)

Activities: Printing and publishing of newspapers

Control: Independent Newspapers plc 58%

Chairman: L P Healy MD J G Featherstone

Capital structure: 45,1m ord. Market capitalisation R564m

Share market: Price R12,50 Yields: 2,1% on dividend, 5,6% on earnings, p e ratio, 18; cover, 2,6. 12-month high, R15, low, R10. Trading volume last quarter, 10,7m shares

Year to	Mar 31 '94	†Dec 31 '94
ST debt (Rm)	50,7	61,5
LT debt (Rm)	31,0	8,0
Debt:equity ratio	0,46	0,34
Shareholders' interest	0,39	0,45
Int & leasing cover	n/a	10,1
Return on cap (%)	16,1	11,0
Turnover (Rm)	734	572
Pre-int profit (Rm)	60,8	43,0
Pre-int margin (%)	8,3	7,5
Earnings (c)	72	*52
Dividends (c)	16,9	20,0
Tangible NAV (c)	306	390

† Nine-month period * 69c annualised

This is almost certainly the end of the line for this newspaper group will be reviewed under the Argus banner. Next week shareholders will be asked to change the name to Independent Newspaper Holdings, in line with the title of Dublin-based controlling shareholder Independent Newspapers plc.

Resolutions of a more far-reaching nature will also be considered. The structure is to

be changed and a wholly owned operating company, Independent Newspapers Ltd, will manage regional interests through three subsidiaries: Gauteng, Natal and Cape Newspapers.

The most interesting resolution though is to expand the memorandum of association describing the company's main business to include "media, communications, education, entertainment, information and related industries."

This certainly signals new owner Tony O'Reilly's long-term plans for what has become the SA arm of his newspaper group. It also underlines the extent to which his increased stake, up from 35% to 58% following an offer to minorities in February, makes Argus an increasingly important contributor to world group profits and highlights a problem with the investment.

Some analysts are divided on the present value of the share, but at R12,50 on a p e ratio of 18 the *FM* sides with those who feel it is overpriced. One reason for this is the risk attached to what is currently a pure printing and publishing investment.

O'Reilly clearly intends to expand into the broader media, probably broadcasting or the electronic media, though now Argus is banging heads with the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA), mainly because it is foreign-controlled.

Until — if ever — it is able to diversify, the share offers limited potential. In the shorter term, though, prospects for earnings growth appear good, especially if economic growth is maintained.

Results in the annual report are of limited value, covering a nine-month period as Argus gets its year-end in line with Independent Newspapers Plc. Comparisons with the previous, unaudited nine-month period are flattering — turnover declined in real terms, but trading profits soared by 32% to R40m and earnings by 45% to R24m, diluted to a 40% increase in EPS.

The nine months covered, however, include much of the huge deluge of pre-election advertising and the effects on advertising revenue of the strengthening economy. The previous period was characterised by political uncertainty and the tentative end of recession, when business was slow and advertising revenue still down in the dumps.

Results were also boosted by the closure of the loss-making *Sunday Star* and other retreats and retrenchments, including the *Pretoria News*' printing and production works.

CE John Featherstone notes that circulation and advertising volumes came off after the elections, with advertising particularly affected by mid-year strikes in the retail and motor industries. The last four months of the year showed an encouraging improvement, he says.

Better prospects, apart from increased cover prices, probably lie, however, with Argus's traditional strength in retail advertising and classified advertisements, cov-

Shaping the ⁽²⁴³⁾ direction of SA newspapers

Sowetan 21/6/95

Sowetan Correspondent

A GLOBAL perspective on the 21st century, aimed at shaping the direction of newspapers in South Africa, was emerging from the new international advisory board of Argus Newspapers which met for the first time in Cape Town yesterday.

This was the view of board member and former US ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Andrew Young.

The advisory board was established by the majority shareholder of Argus Newspapers, Mr Tony O'Reilly. Among its other members are SABCCE Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu and businessman Dr Nthato Motlana.

"The whole world is looking at the 21st century with a big question mark. Governments are losing their nerve. Business is not sure which way to go — they say they want to go global. I see one of the roles of the media, especially newspapers in an exciting environment like South Africa, as sharing a vision of the future for the whole world," Young

said. He said many problems South Africa faced like cultural diversity and poverty, were similar to problems in other countries such as the United States and Latin America.

"What (Dr Tony) O'Reilly has done in establishing this board is to bring together a very interesting cross-section of people from South Africa, Europe and the United States. What is emerging is a global perspective on the 21st century which has just got to help shape the direction of newspapers," said Young.

Play no role

Advisory board chairman and former editor of the *Washington Post* Mr Ben Bradlee said the board would play no role in the day-to-day running of Argus newspapers.

"I'm not about to tell another editor what to do. My bias is towards journalists. I think what O'Reilly and his crowd have in mind is for all of us to lend our experience with the goal of improving the excellence of newspapers," Bradlee said.

B
P
A
pr
ar
pr
M

Omni Media income up 51% to reach R86,3m

MD 22/6/95
(243)

Amanda Vermeulen

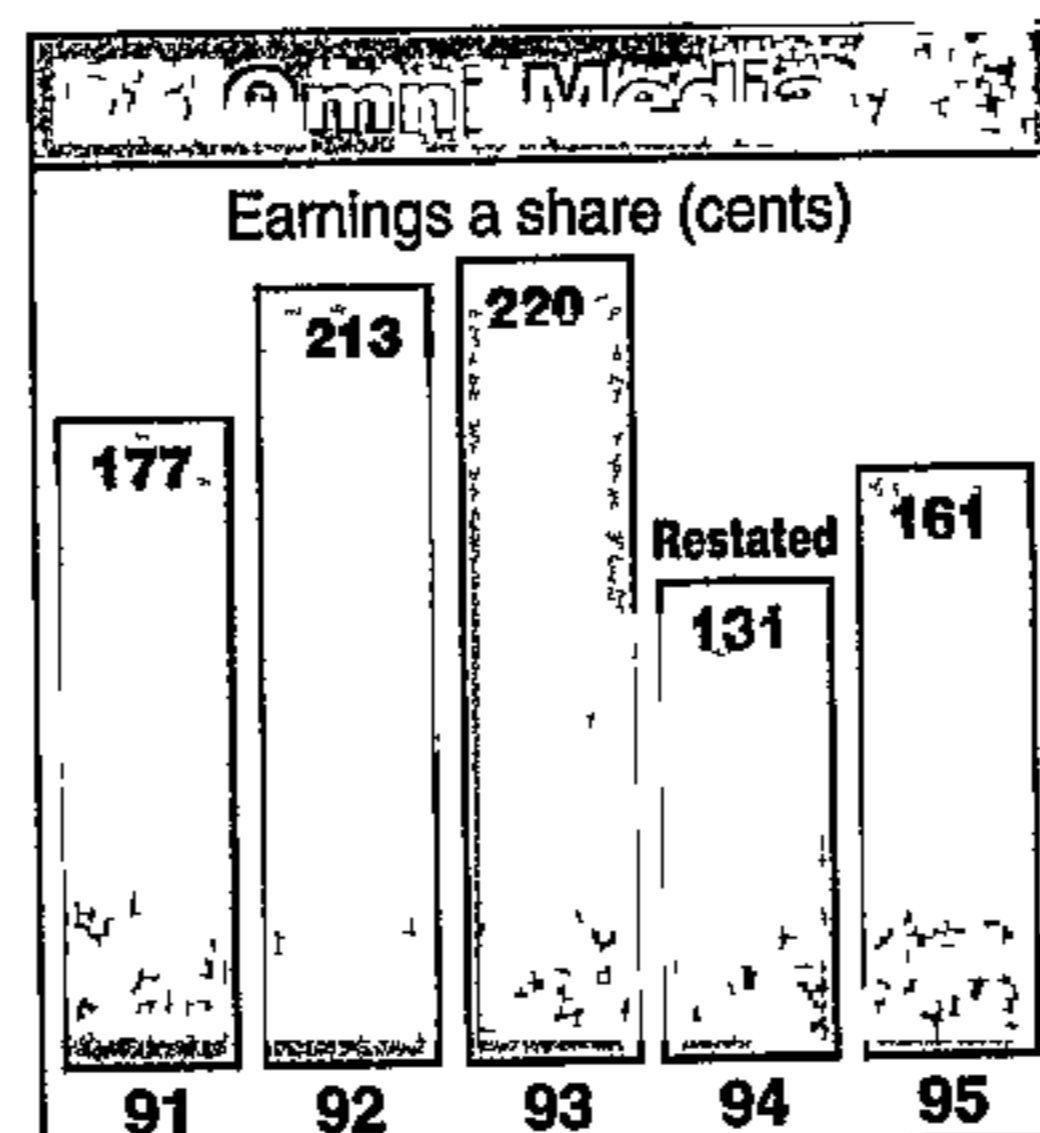
PERFORMANCES above expectation from group companies helped Omni Media — formerly Argus Holdings — to lift net attributable income 51% to R86,3m in the year to March

Earnings a share for the group, whose associated companies include Times Media (TML), CNA Gallo, M-Net, MultiChoice and CTP/Caxton, increased 23% to 161c and a final dividend of 29c was declared, bringing to 45c the dividend for the year.

The directors said group companies had performed above expectation during the year, with trading profit improving 28% to R162,3m against a restated figure of R126,7m for financial 1994. CNA Gallo and TML recorded pleasing increases, they said.

The group's 1994 results have been restated to exclude the results of Argus Newspapers and to consolidate TML as a 36%-owned subsidiary

Net income before tax of R185,1m was 24% up on last year, and taxed income, after a tax bill of R69,1m (R49,4m), was 17% higher at R115,9m.



Graphic: KAREN MOOLMAN Source: OMNI MEDIA

Income attributable to outside shareholders was down at R57,9m (R69,3m)

The share of retained income of associates of R28,3m (R26,9m) left net attributable income at R86,3m. An extraordinary item of R115,6m reflected the group's restructure of its newspaper interests, and M-Net/MultiChoice's restructure of their offshore interests

The directors said that despite a good performance from CTP, associ-

ated companies' earnings had increased modestly due to the costs incurred by MultiChoice in the development of its cellular telephone interests and overseas subscription television interests.

TML recorded a 24% increase in trading profit following strong advertising support and cost controls. This, combined with substantial investment income on cash balances, resulted in the publishing group reporting a 39% increase in earnings prior to associates.

CNA Gallo reported a 21% increase in earnings as a result of good increases from CNA stores and Gallo Entertainment

M-Net continued to trade well, while the board was confident that MultiChoice, which incurred losses in the development of certain operations, would begin to contribute to group earnings in due course.

The group's balance sheet reflected cash and redeemable investments of R194m. The directors said they would offer shareholders the option of capitalisation shares or a cash dividend

Farewell to our old Auntie Argus

CT(BE) 23/6/95 (243)

STAFF WRITER



Tony O'Reilly

Argus Newspapers, a dominant name in South African journalism for more than a century, yesterday changed its name to Independent Newspapers Holdings

The new name is effective immediately and follows a resolution of shareholders. The change flows from the acquisition of a majority of the old Argus shares by the Dublin-based Independent Newspapers Group headed by Tony O'Reilly, Irish food and media magnate.

The newly-named holding company presides over three regional operating divisions from today — Gauteng Newspapers, Natal Newspapers and Cape Newspapers.

Titles in the Gauteng Newspapers' stable are The Star, Saturday Star, The Sunday Independent (to be launched this weekend), The Pretoria News and the Diamond Fields Advertiser.

Deon du Plessis, Gauteng managing director, said "The name change further reflects the end of one era and the beginning of another which is entirely new. We are strengthening our operations in a fast changing market."

Graeme King, general manager, says Independent Newspaper Holdings is determined to ensure that its regional titles become stronger than they are now. "Each title intends to meet the changing requirements of readers and advertisers."

Proposed legislation called a dream for media barons

A draft proposing right of access to all information held by the State was a "dream clause for the media barons," Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development, Mohanad Valli Moosa said yesterday. It would enable media or-

ganisations free access to all government information, but the media itself would not be subject to the same scrutiny. He told a Constitutional Committee meeting that the Government would not have the same right to ask questions of

the media barons, such as who funded them and which parties they supported. The ANC believed the right of access to information should also apply horizontally (to institutions other than the State).

The ANC believed only natural persons should be bearers of the right while the National Party, the Democratic Party and the Freedom Front supported its extension to juristic persons in appropriate circumstances.

Moosa said a draft formulation on academic freedom could prevent the State from taking specific steps to "restructure and transform universities and other tertiary institutions in order to serve the goals of the RDP." — Sapa

SAPA 24/6/95

(243)

Proposed info bill a 'dream' for Media

(243)
A DRAFT bill proposing right of access to all information held by the state was a "dream clause for the media barons", Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development Valli Moosa said

It would enable media organisations free access to all government information, but the media itself would not be subject to the same scrutiny, he told a constitutional committee meeting

"The government will not have the same right to ask questions of the media barons, such as who funds them and which parties they support."

The African National Congress believed the right of access to information should also apply horizontally (to institutions other than the state)

Mr Moosa also said a draft formulation on academic freedom could prevent the state from taking specific steps to "restructure and transform universities and other tertiary institutions in order to serve the goals of the RDP".

The committee also debated new draft clauses on the freedom of expression, including provisions which prohibited "propaganda for war" and the advocacy of racial or religious hatred

ARG 24/6/95
The ANC objected to a clause stating that all state-financed or controlled media should be regulated to ensure independence, impartiality and diversity of opinion

Frene Ginwala said this provision could impose "serious restrictions" on the state's efforts to propagate information on matters such as immunisation.

— Sapa

APR 28/6/95

Call for censorship referendum

(243)
Political Staff

THE African Christian Democratic Party has called for a referendum on the liberalisation of the law on publications.

ACDP leader Kenneth Meshoe made the call — which includes the retention of the Publications Act of 1974 currently under review by parliament — in the national assembly yesterday during the second reading debate on the Home Affairs Laws Rationalisation Bill.

The bill, approved almost unanimously save for a few ACDP reservations, repeals certain laws which apply in the former homelands and self-governing territories.

It also introduces certain transitional measures in terms of the Publications Act, the Aliens Control Act, the Births and Deaths Registration Act and the Marriage Act.

One of the new provisions extends the period for the registration of a birth from seven to 30 days, to allow ample opportunity to parents living in rural communities.

Dealing with the law on publications, Mr Meshoe said world-wide there was a great degree of consensus that some form of control was imperative in any normal society.

He said the Publications Act of 1974 should be retained, pending a referendum.

Work stoppage:

Eight suspended

(243) (PAB) ARG 30/6/95
Staff Reporter

SEVEN workers and the personnel manager of Nasionale Tydskrifte have been suspended on full pay after a work stoppage by 300 employees and their occupation of the company's hi-tech gravure printing press room.

A Supreme Court eviction order led to policemen surrounding the building in Buitengracht Street yesterday afternoon and employees returned to work.

Personnel manager Michael Voges and seven members of the Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers' Union (Ppwawu), including the union leader Solly Staggie and four shop stewards, were suspended pending investigations of alleged misconduct.

Production stopped on Tuesday at 4.30 pm.

Workers said the stoppage came after claims of overwork by four employees were allegedly ignored by three managers, including Mr Voges.

Mr September said workers, who earned between R290 and R350 a week, were motivated by a fear of retrenchment, fuelled by the company's decision to employ contract workers, and frustration over autocratic management styles.

The chief executive of Nasionale Tydskrifte, Salie de Swardt, said workers had "hijacked our press like one hijacks an aeroplane".

He added "They want no punishment, but there are allegations of intimidation, assault and damaging machines. We will prosecute them if we find them guilty at an inquiry."

The credentials to defend press freedom

(243)
ART 1/7/95

JOHN VILJOEN
Business Reporter

THE members of the Independent Newspapers of South Africa International Advisory Board have the credentials to defend press freedom in the potentially difficult years ahead.

This is the view of Cape Newspapers MD Rory Wilson, who addressed the high-profile group in Cape Town

"I got a very strong impression that they have the interests of the press generally and of our newspapers in particular very much at heart," Mr Wilson said this week

"Their interests range from the people who work inside our newspapers to the environment in which our newspapers operate — the political ebb and flow — through to the readers and the advertisers that we serve"

Mr Wilson said he told the board there was a wave of optimism driving the country toward what could be a potentially great and glorious future "But, while I'm hugely enthusiastic about that, I'm very worried too

"I'm worried that this optimism will blind newspapers to the fact that there's hardly been a government in history which hasn't sought in one form or another to apply some restrictions on newspapers and the media

"I think now is the time to be vigilant about these things Now is the time to be debating in public the incredibly impor-



Tony O'Reilly



John Featherstone

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

The members of the Independent Newspapers of South Africa International Advisory Board, which will meet twice a year, are Ted Sorenson, former adviser to President Kennedy; former New York mayor David Dinkins, Independent Newspapers of SA majority shareholder Tony O'Reilly, chief executive John Featherstone, chairman Liam Healy and group editorial executive Ivan Fallon, Independent Newspapers PLC company secretary David McGrath, Development Bank of SA chairman Wiseman Nkhulu, former United States ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young, former Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee SABC group chief executive Zwelake Sisulu, former Drum Editor Anthony Sampson, New Africa Investments chairman Nthato Motlana Kagiso Investment Trust head Eric Molobisi and media consultant Frank Ferrari

tant role newspapers play in our society

"When President Mandela goes, do we know who is going to replace him? Do we know what is going to be in the minds of the new rulers at a time when they are going to be struggling to implement the RDP, when there are going to be a vast array of social problems?

"And if we newspapers are

going to be doing our jobs, we are going to be reporting on those social problems.

"That will embarrass the new government and they will be very tempted to start questioning our role in society.

"I think you will be only two very short hops away from some form of attempt at regulation. I'm not saying it's going to happen, I'm just saying we

should be very vigilant about it and not take our eye off the ball"

The board had the stature to guard press freedom and the interests of Independent Newspapers' foreign shareholders under this and future governments.

"There is an element of an insurance policy about the board," Mr Wilson agreed, "but not because they are ANC supporters, or because they're linked with the ANC

"I think their prominence is the insurance policy"

Mr Wilson briefed the group on the thinking behind two of Independent Newspapers of South Africa's major missions

The first of these was to turn Independent Newspapers into a truly new South African company "I understand that to mean that the people inside the company and attitudes of those people must be reflective of what is going on in this new democratic society of ours

"We have a long way to go — we still have old South Africa attitudes in many parts of the company — although that's diminishing"

The second objective was the role of Independent Newspapers as a participant in the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

"We were given a 10-year window of opportunity. The 10 years started in September 1989, when De Klerk became president The window closes in April 1999 at the end of the coalition government period

"There are only 3½ years left of that window"

Watchdog role essential for newspapers

Business Reporter

SUPPORT for democracy should not be confused with support for political parties — a watchdog role is still cardinal, Kaizer Nyatumba, political editor of The Star, told the Independent Newspapers International Advisory Board.

"A heated debate has raged about the role the Press should play in our fledgling democracy

"Yes, I do think the Press has a special role to play in present-day South Africa, but I think that that role is the one usually played by the Press the world over as watchdog

over government

"I think Independent Newspapers should take it upon themselves to be custodians of the present interim constitution and of the final one once it is concluded.

"This means that we will have to, as our new name now implies, be fiercely independent, both of our new political masters and of big business

"It means that we will have to be critical of the government, whichever party may be in power, when we believe criticism is justified, and not be afraid to praise the government

when we believe praise is deserved.

"That, I think, is the patriotic role we as Independent Newspapers can and should play, for he who thinks patriotism means sycophancy can only be described as a dangerous fool.

"It is my view that we should be supportive of the broad, democratic process and be among its most vocal defenders, and be proud of it, as long as we never make the mistake of equating support for the democratisation and transformation processes which have yet to run their full course with support for certain political groupings or ideologies, no

matter how dominant those groupings or ideologies may be at the time

"It is my firm view that Independent Newspapers should aim to acquire a reputation as the most reliable, independent newspapers which make no secret of their support for the on-going transformation process and regard themselves as custodians of our constitution and watchdogs over whatever government is in power, and steadfastly refuse to go to bed with any political group or ideology.

"Only that way can we best serve our country"

Editors to quit role with council

THE CONFERENCE of Editors has resolved to cease voluntary co-operation with the SA Press Council, chairman Khulu Sibiya announced after a meeting of editors in Durban on Friday.

He said editors had decided to recommend to the Print Media Association that an ombudsman be appointed to resolve complaints against the Press "as speedily as possible, while allowing easy access to all South Africans".

They had noted "with distress" that a parliamentary theme committee had concluded its report to the Constitutional Assembly on freedom of expression without hearing the views of leading editors (243).

The committee had ignored repeated requests from the Conference of Editors for a delegation of six leading editors to appear before the committee. The requests, both written and oral, were made to Constitutional Assembly chairman Cyril Ramaphosa in September 1994.

Sibiya said the conference had also noted that editors' views were similarly dismissed when the interim constitution was drafted at the Kempton Park multi-party negotiations, and as a result, the constitution was defective. CP 2/7/95

"These deficiencies now appear certain to be carried over to the final

constitution. Therefore the Conference of Editors has no alternative but to appeal to international agencies and supporters of a free press for assistance in establishing an acceptable degree of free speech in South Africa.

"The conference resolved to embark immediately on a campaign to rally international support," Sibiya said.

■ The authority and powers of the SA Press Council arise from an agreement entered into by all newspaper proprietors who are members of the Newspaper Press Union, binding themselves and all the editors and journalists they employ to observe the provisions of the constitution and deal with infringements of a recognised code of conduct.

This includes an obligation by newspapers to report the news truthfully, accurately and objectively, and to comment and criticise fairly and honestly. - Sapa



Campaign to support free press

Shaw 3/7/95

Newspaper editors ⁽²⁴³⁾ want an ombudsman

Durban — The Conference of Editors has resolved to cease voluntary co-operation with the SA Press Council, chairman Khulu Sibiyana announced after a meeting of editors in Durban at the weekend.

He said in a statement that editors had decided to recommend to the Print Media Association that an ombudsman be appointed to resolve complaints against the press "as speedily as possible, while allowing easy access to all South Africans"

They had noted "with distress" that a parliamentary theme committee had concluded its report to the Constitutional Assembly on freedom of expression without hearing the views of the country's leading editors

The committee had ignored

repeated requests from the Conference of Editors for a delegation of six leading editors to appear before the committee

The requests, both written and oral, were made to Constitutional Assembly chairman Cyril Ramaphosa in September 1994

Sibiyana said the conference had also noted that editors' views were similarly dismissed when the interim constitution was drafted at the Kempton Park multiparty negotiations. The constitution, as a result, was defective

"These deficiencies now appear certain to be carried over to the final constitution. Therefore, the Conference of Editors has no alternative but to appeal to international agencies and supporters of a free press for

assistance in establishing an acceptable degree of free speech in South Africa

"The conference resolved to embark immediately on a campaign to rally international support," Sibiyana said.

■ The authority and powers of the SA Press Council arise from an agreement entered into by all newspaper proprietors who are members of the Newspaper Press Union, binding themselves and all the editors and journalists they employ to observe the provisions of the constitution and deal with infringements of a recognised code of conduct.

This includes an obligation by newspapers to report the news truthfully, accurately and objectively, and to comment and criticise fairly and honestly. — Sapa.

Editors withdraw from press accord

(243) CT 4/7/95

DURBAN: The Conference of Editors has resolved to cease voluntary co-operation with the SA Press Council, chairman Mr Khulu Sibiyá announced after a meeting of editors here on Friday

Editors had decided to recommend to the Print Media Association that an ombudsman be appointed to resolve complaints against the press "as speedily as possible, while allowing easy access to all South Africans"

They had noted "with distress" that a parliamentary committee had concluded its report to the Constitutional Assembly on freedom of expression without hearing the views of leading editors

The committee had ignored repeated requests from the Conference of Editors for a delegation of six leading editors to appear before the committee

Mr Sibiyá said the conference had also noted that editors' views were similarly dismissed when the interim constitution was drafted at the Kempton Park multiparty negotiations and as a result the constitution was defective

"These deficiencies now appear certain to be carried over to the final constitution. Therefore the Conference of Editors has no alternative but to appeal to international agencies and supporters of a free press for assistance in establishing an acceptable degree of free speech in South Africa

"The conference resolved to embark immediately on a campaign to rally international support," Mr Sibiyá said

Objective

The authority and powers of the SA Press Council arise from an agreement entered into by all newspaper proprietors who are members of the Newspaper Press Union, binding themselves and all the editors and journalists they employ to observe the provisions of the constitution and deal with infringements of a recognised code of conduct

This includes an obligation by newspapers to report the news accurately and objectively, and to comment fairly — Sapa

er court uphold the Act's validity.

Page 13

Reddy urges the Press to reflect new realities

IF THE SA Press continued to be dominated by four publishing houses, debate on major issues like the changeover from the old Radio SA to SAfm would continue to be one-sided and hardly reflective of diverse opinions in the country, SABC Radio CE Govan Reddy said earlier this week. (243)

Addressing the Cape Town Press Club, he said two preconditions for a democratic media culture remained problematic: free, independent media, reflecting diversity of opinion; and respect for the professional integrity and independent role of journalists.

"If journalists persist with inaccurate, unbalanced reporting, they are unlikely to win public respect," he said. SA had one of the highest concentrations of Press ownership in the world, with Times Media Limited and Independent Newspapers accounting for about 80% of daily English readership. BD 6/7/98

It was no secret that there was little divergence of interest between the two newspaper companies' owners and the old Radio SA listeners, he said.

SA media were also impoverished by the fact that the profile of its editors tended to be white, middle-class and male. Post and Telecommunications Minister Pallo Jordan had written in a weekend newspaper.

"Little wonder then that some of the most vociferous and vitriolic critics of SAfm are white, middle-class, middle-aged, English-speaking male radio critics writing for The Star, The Argus, The EP Herald and The Mercury — birds of a colonial feather battling to come to grips with the realities of a nonracial society".

Ownership and staffing problems were compounded by "the appalling ethical standards" of the SA Press, Reddy said — Sapa.

ack community station

marily at the Cape Flats area, enabling coloured people to view rugby matches

expect
fund
dura
atio
rem
for
tick
life
ers
fun
to
de
thi
no
TE
pl
re
so
to
o

be
to
he
15,
nd
-ial
ea
in-
ed
an
si-
be
ay,
ler.
pr-
the
not
ere
ple
the
on.
ess
for
ile
be

Constitutional assembly denies it ignored editors

CLAIMS that it had ignored a request for a hearing from the Conference of Editors have been rebutted by the constitutional assembly (CA)

At a meeting in Durban last Friday the editors noted "with distress" that a parliamentary theme committee had completed its report on freedom of expression and submitted it to the assembly without hearing the views of leading editors.

The committee reportedly ignored repeated requests from the Conference of Editors for a delegation of six leading editors to appear before it

Reacting to the reports yesterday, assembly spokesman Enoch Sithole said the assembly regarded editors as an "important component" in the writing of the final constitution

Last September Sunday Times editor Ken Owen wrote to assembly chairman Cyril Ramaphosa, asking whether the Conference of Editors could address the committee dealing with freedom of expression, Mr Sithole said.

Attached to Mr Owen's letter had been a memorandum suggesting amendments to the interim constitution. The letter was forwarded to the committee as a submission from the editors, Mr Sithole said

ARG 8/7/95 (243)
The committee's technical adviser, John Dugard, had later approached Gilbert Marcus, who had written a paper on freedom of expression which formed the basis of the editors' memorandum

Mr Sithole said that after receiving this document the committee was satisfied that it had enough evidence to prepare a report on the subject

"On the concern that the theme committee has completed its report without having given a hearing to the editors and 'without a full public debate', we would like to record that theme committee reports are compiled without any debate whatsoever"

The reports were merely a summary of the views submitted by individuals, organisations and political parties.

"Debate on all the views starts at the constitutional committee before reaching the CA, where some finality can be reached. Public debate on the new constitution has not yet begun."

The assembly planned to publish all draft reports — including the one on freedom of expression — and to invite the entire South African public to debate and send in comments — Sapa

It's not that editors were ignored, says Constitutional Assembly

Cape Town — The Constitutional Assembly yesterday denied reports that it ignored a request from the Conference of Editors for a hearing.

At a meeting in Durban last week, the editors noted "with distress" that a parliamentary theme committee had completed its report on freedom of expression and submitted it to the Constitutional Assembly without hearing the views of six leading editors.

Reacting to the reports yesterday, Constitutional Assembly spokesman Enoch Sithole said the assembly regarded editors as an "important component" in the writing of the final constitution.

In September Sunday Times editor Ken Owen wrote to Constitutional Assembly chairman Cyril Ramaphosa, asking whether the Conference of Editors could address the committee dealing with freedom of expression. Attached to his letter was a memorandum suggesting amendments to the interim constitution. It was forwarded to the committee as a submission, Sithole said.

Committee technical adviser Professor John Dugard approached advocate Gilbert Marcus, who had written a paper on freedom of expression, which formed the basis of the editors' memorandum.

"On the concern that the theme committee has completed its report without having given a hearing to the editors and without a full public debate, we would like to record that theme committee reports are compiled without any debate whatsoever."

Theme committee reports were merely a summary of views submitted by individuals and organisations.

"Debate... starts at the constitutional committee... Public debate on the new constitution has not yet begun," Sithole said — Sapa.

(243) Star 8/17/98

Council presses on without editors

(243)
ST 9/7/75
By PHYLCIA OPPELT

THE Press Council would continue to operate despite a decision by the Conference of Editors to cease co-operating with the watchdog body, council registrar Ed Linington said this week.

But he urged interested parties to discuss a possible replacement to the council, which was set up by newspaper proprietors to serve as a watchdog on professional ethics.

The Conference of Editors, which met in Durban last week, suggested that an ombudsman be appointed to replace the council.

Mr Linington declined to comment on the proposal.

Times Media Limited's managing director, Roy Paulson, said an ombudsman was too limited a solution and suggested a reduced council might be a better option.

He said the council had been useful in promoting confidence among the public and had helped re-establish the bona fides of newspapers in South Africa. "Newspapers make mistakes and the council is known as a last resort to lodge complaints."

Khulu Sibiya, the chairman of the Conference of Editors, said the council was outdated.

"The country's apartheid policies have gone. We have a constitution which guarantees greater press freedom. There is no need for the structure."

Mr Sibiya said an ombudsman might be more effective and an appeal board could deal with difficult cases.

Deon du Plessis, the managing director of Independent Newspapers in Gauteng, said he supported the editors' decision.

"Editors want speedy solutions, when problems arise and the council cannot provide that."

Ton Vosloo of Nasionale Pers said he could not comment.

Snubbing denied (243)

OT 10/7/95

THE Constitutional Assembly has denied reports that it ignored a request for a hearing from the Conference of Editors.

The editors had noted "with distress" that a parliamentary theme committee had completed its report on freedom of expression and submitted it to the assembly without hearing editors' views.

An Assembly spokesman said it regarded editors as an "important component" in the writing of the final constitution.

Theme committee reports were a summary of views submitted by individuals and organisations and "were compiled without debate". Public debate will take place later — Sapa

Consumers can vote with voices

ET 14/7/95

(243)

CLAIRE BISSEKER
STAFF REPORTER

CONSUMERS were given a voice at the launch of the National Service Excellence Awards yesterday

The annual competition aims to foster a culture of service in South Africa, which has acquired an international reputation for poor service.

The winner will be the company, across all sectors of commerce and industry, that consistently performs best over a three-month period according to ratings awarded by consumers in a national research survey

Researchers will interview a minimum of 3 000 people per entrant who have visited the com-

pany in the past year and feel qualified to comment on its service

The competition was initiated by radio personality Mr Allan Barnard, who said "Consumers, too, need to become aware of their spending power and vote with their feet.

"This will motivate companies to pay more attention to staff training and improved people skills."

Speaking at the launch in the city yesterday, Stratagem training specialist Mr Anthony Galloway urged businesses to commit themselves to service excellence by entering the competition

More than 20 companies have already entered. Entrance fees range from R1 800 to R8 600, depending on the company size

New way to take the measure of companies

BY AUDREY D'ANGELO

Companies countrywide are being invited to take part in a new venture - Voice of the Consumer (VOC) - which will measure their performance in the eyes of the consumer.

The project was launched simultaneously in Johannesburg and Cape Town yesterday.

Project co-ordinator Lisa Dawson of VOC told business people in Cape Town it was proposed to present national service excellence awards to the companies perceived by consumers to be the best when giving their views to research surveys.

(243) saw 14/7/95
The surveys will be limited to companies applying to take part. The results of the winners will be published. Other companies looked at in surveys will receive confidential reports enabling them to pinpoint their strengths and weaknesses.

Companies which have already applied to take part include major chains such as OK Bazaars, Shoprite-Checkers, Clicks, Truworths, Nu-Metro Theatres, Rennies Travel, domestic airline Comair and City Lodge Hotels.

VOC is the brainchild of Allan Barnard, currently presenter of the breakfast show on KFM radio, who says he has, over the

years, taken hundreds of calls from consumers unhappy with the service they have received.

Dawson said that since the preliminary announcement "we have been inundated with calls from all sectors of business".

Competition

She pointed out that attracting and retaining customers was essential for business success. "The aim of VOC is not to condemn bad service but to help raise standards."

The awards would foster a spirit of competition and the feedback from the research would be of great value to the companies whose performance

was measured

Colleen Sutherland of Research Surveys said the performance of participating companies would be measured by the perceptions of customers of both sexes and all races and age groups in all major urban centres. It would be the consumers themselves who would give companies with which they had dealt a score, ranging from one they would never use again to one they would always deal with

Anthony Holloway, a specialist in customer relations, said it was the mindset of many people dealing with the public that had to be changed if service standards were to be lifted.

No lunching lady who pokes in pools

SA 17/7/95 (243)

AFTER twenty years the Consumer Council is no more. Consumer Reporter Tikki Whitfield looks at the new way consumer affairs will be handled

For two decades, the South African Consumer Council was run by white, middle-class Afrikaners. Now, it is to be dissolved, and several members of the Pretoria-based office have opted to take retrenchment packages. Things are pretty quiet there at the moment.

But at the Gauteng Department of Economic Affairs in Johannesburg, the office is almost constantly busy.

Collette Caine, co-ordinator of the newly formed inter-provincial Consumer Affairs Working Group and consultant to the Minister of Economic Affairs on consumer affairs, has a very important task. One that she hopes will substantially change the way consumers are treated in this country.

Consumer affairs have now been given a Schedule 6 competency, which means their primary responsibility rests with provincial government, not some obscure organisation not many consumers knew very much about.

When it comes to consumer matters, South Africa is quite a way behind the rest of the world. For years we have put up with bad service, inferior products and lousy deals, whinging and whining, sure, but ultimately shrugging our shoulders.

But now there is hope. The aim is to give consumers a better deal, where people's basic rights are being addressed, the homeless are getting houses and the jobless are allowed to trade freely in the market place.

The old Consumer Council's term of office came to an end last month. From July 1 to December 31 there will be a new council to oversee this transition, made up of representatives of the provinces and consumer organisations.



Striving for a better deal for consumers ... Collette Caine, co-ordinator of the new interprovincial Consumer Affairs Working Group.

PICTURE: NATASHA PINCUS

The old Consumer Council is described in strong terms by critics: "Ladies who lunch and dabble in consumer affairs."

"People more likely to do something about a crack in somebody's swimming pool than a crack in a family's home." "A totally white, totally middle-class council not representative of the majority of South African consumers."

The council's headquarters are in Pretoria, and there were small offices

in Bellville in the Cape, in Durban and Bloemfontein, each manned by about four people. Undoubtedly, it lacked a profile among black consumers, although to be fair more recently it did look into complaints from townships.

But it lacked credibility and was refused affiliation to Consumers International.

That was what things were like then. Now, all the provinces will be establishing their own organisations to

The department will be advised by a Provincial Consumer Forum, made up of representatives from consumer, civic, labour and other organisations with interests in consumer affairs. The Consumer Affairs Department will carry out research, communications and media and consumer education.

Caine said it was hoped the whole component would be up and running in all provinces by the beginning of next year. The only provinces which might not be able to stick to this schedule are KwaZulu-Natal and North-West.

In KwaZulu-Natal, political instability has delayed the process of establishing provincial and local government structures.

In North-West, the new government inherited the former Bophuthatswana Consumer Council with a budget of R11-million and a staff of 117. The province is currently evaluating the role of all parastatals, including the consumer council. After this it will decide how to restructure the North-West council.

Caine said a draft copy of the Consumer Affairs Act would soon be made available, and would be adopted throughout the country, based on the provisions contained in the Harmful Business Practices Act, which allows for dubious businesses to be banned and their assets redistributed.

The Harmful Business Practices Act is a powerful piece of legislation but has never been effectively implemented because the Business Practices Committee, set up to administer it, was grossly understaffed and operated on a tiny budget.

"But the Consumer Affairs Act will be powerful, it will have teeth, and will make provision for businesses to be investigated and closed if necessary and will therefore have a major influence on consumer affairs," she said.

And what about the jobs of the people employed by the old Consumer Council, those who have not gone for the retrenchment packages?

"They are welcome to apply for jobs in the provincial offices when they are advertised. Obviously, they will have experience in consumer affairs and this will count in their favour."

Battle looms over state info policy

A behind-the-scenes battle is raging in the government as state communication agency Sacs fights for its life, reports **Gaye Davis**

A BATTLE for the heart and soul of government communications policy is underway. The first shots have been fired in a series of behind-the-scenes skirmishes between government spokespeople and the central state information agency, the South African Communication Service (Sacs)

At issue is creating the means whereby all citizens of South Africa — rather than just the educated elite — get the information they need to participate in the new democracy

The first salvos were fired during preparations for a major conference to be attended by all government communicators next month. Lines were drawn over what the conference was intended to achieve.

According to sources, Sacs representatives wanted the conference itself to formulate policy on communications structures and how the government talks to citizens. This was seen as a bid to ensure its continued existence in a climate where MPs and even ministers were questioning the relevance and necessity of a centralised organisation employing about 500 people and costing R53-million a year to run, when most ministries and departments had their own media sections.

The sources said this would have allowed Sacs to report on its own role and make recommendations on its own future. But this was deemed

unacceptable by those who saw the debate as part of the broader issue of transforming South African society and who wanted the issue discussed outside government structures.

A corps of government spokespeople — new appointments made since the change in government — initially pushed for a commission of inquiry to audit the entire gamut of government communications, including Sacs, ministries, departments, provinces and the Constitutional Assembly

The idea was that the commission would independently examine strengths and weaknesses of government communications, tapping local and international expert opinion as well as the public, with a view to a much broader conference later

This move was spiked when Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, during the Sacs budget debate on May 24, announced the conference

After a number of meetings, the preparatory committee finally agreed this week that the conference, set for August 25 to 27 at Arniston, would be only the first step in a wide-ranging consultation process that would eventually reach all stakeholders — including the public — before any white paper was produced.

Sacs acting head David Venter conceded this week there had been political wrangles but dismissed as "malicious" suggestions that Sacs

Battle over state info policy

(243)
From PAGE 7

was fighting for its life "to preserve some old paradigm". WIM 21-27/7/95

Sacs employees had undergone "a process of change orientation" in the past four years, leaving them better prepared than other departments. The majority were "quite comfortable" with the new government, and those unable to make the transition had mostly left, he said

Absorbing former Transkei and Ciskei Department of Foreign Affairs staffers meant 48 percent of about 300 regional office staffers would be black. Sacs was committed to an 80 percent black staff make-up (including management) by 1999 and was "on target", Venter said

But lingering suspicions about Sacs — the role it played as the apartheid government's propaganda and disinformation arm — and doubts whether, in its "unreconstructed" state, it has entirely let go of the past, will still mark the terrain to be covered at the conference

Ministerial liaison officers (MLOs) canvassed this week said they only used Sacs when "absolutely necessary", and only for "mundane tasks" such as its press clippings service, booking press conference venues and alerting the media

"Some of us are very unhappy about the role Sacs is playing," said one MLO "We feel they don't have sufficient grasp of the government's policies, come from a murky past and are now desperate to preserve themselves. There is nothing to assure me they aren't still working for forces on the other side"

All government communicators — ministerial media liaison officers, heads of departmental media sections, representatives from the president and the two deputy presidents' offices, Sacs, the Constitutional Assembly, the Speaker's Office, the provinces and the portfolio committee on communication in the National Assembly will attend the conference and it will be open to the press

■ To PAGE 8

OFFICIALS LAID 'GIRLIE' MAG COMPLAINTS

We acted unjustly — chief state censor

(243) CT 24/7/95

ROUTINE complaints that the censors lodged against "girlie magazines" were not in keeping with "administrative justice", says the chief censor. **CLAIRE BISSEKER** reports.

THE chief state censor has admitted that the country's censorship authorities committed an injustice by routinely lodging their own complaints against "girlie magazines" instead of acting on complaints from the public.

Dr Braam Coetzee also said it had been his "prime responsibility" to personally alert the attorney-general to the sale of prohibited and undesirable publications at the Nice and Naughty sex shop in the city.

He had submitted a written report, not a complaint, to Mr Frank Kahn and had left it up to him to decide what action to take.

Dr Coetzee said he supported the statement made last year by

Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi that "never again in this country will anyone decide what other intelligent and rational human beings may or may not read, watch or hear".

Dr Coetzee said he also agreed with the recommendation of the task group set up by Chief Buthelezi to investigate film and publication control, that sex shops and other adult establishments "should be managed rather than prohibited".

But such recommendations were a long way from being made law, and until they were he had to administer the Publications Act of 1974.

The act allows the directorate of publications to submit its own

complaints.

Dr Coetzee said the directorate had received hundreds of complaints about certain magazines, but the complaints had either arrived too late or were not specific about the issue they referred to.

This had resulted in publications being banned long after all copies had been sold and had subjected the directorate to public ridicule and charges of "ineffectiveness".

Stopped

The directorate had therefore begun submitting its own complaints, but had stopped doing so last year when it accepted that there could hardly be "administrative justice" in submitting a complaint to a committee they had appointed and whose decisions they could appeal against.

ET 3/17/95

Press body sets up local panel

(243)

THE International Press Institute has established a national committee in South Africa.

The committee will be headed by Mr Moegsien Williams, editor of the Pretoria News, editor-designate of the Cape Times and an executive board member of IPI.

Other committee members are Mr Raymond Louw and Mr Richard Steyn, elected fellows of the IPI.

By far the most popular daily newspaper

Star 3/17/95

(243)

Circulation figures to be published soon by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) will reflect a significant, but not critical, decline in most newspaper sales

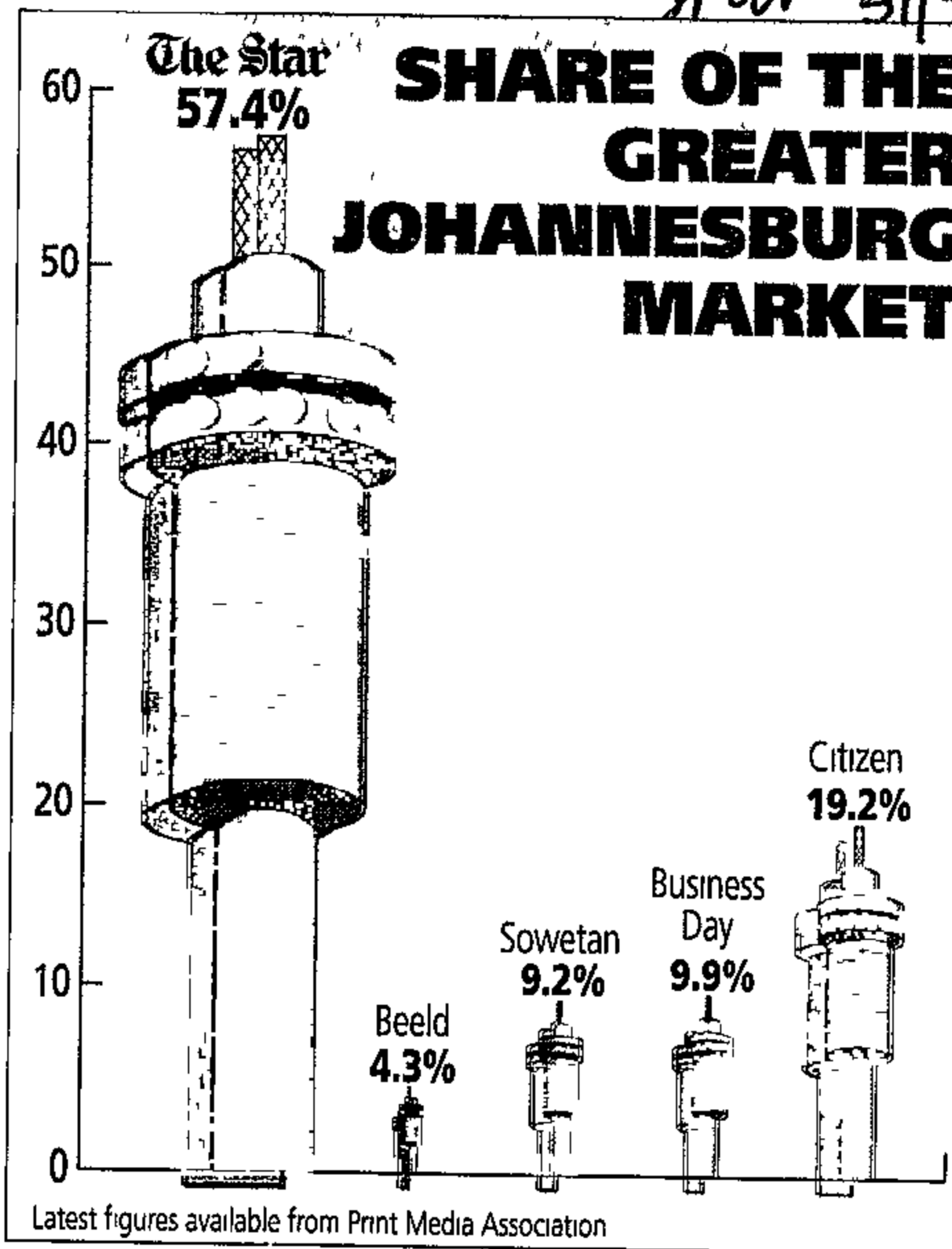
The Star's recent cover price increase and continued popularity as a powerful advertising choice have, however, cushioned the negative effect

While circulation figures of The Star submitted to the ABC show an overall decline of 12% (Saturday Star 9,2%) for the six months preceding June, its share of the Greater Johannesburg market still far exceeds all other daily newspapers. In fact its share is greater than the combined market share of the Citizen, Sowetan and Beeld.

A general circulation downswing was anticipated in the news "void" that followed the election euphoria, and the drop in political violence.

Despite the several strong reasons for the decline, editors, managers and marketers of Johannesburg's largest daily newspaper are not taking the situation lightly. There are a number of plans in the pipeline to counter the trend.

Advertising revenue has recovered after the pre-election political turmoil and as a result The Star's editorial team



has increased significantly — particularly in business coverage that has seen the launch of the nationally popular Business Report.

A major development has been The Star's popular re-

gional supplements, which also necessitated rapid staff recruitment.

Ironically, the improvement in a political climate that increased profits, is also one of the reasons for the fall-off in

circulation. Readership of The Star soared in the weeks preceding and following the historic April 27 election. But demand for information declined slightly in the more settled political climate that followed.

Another major factor which has contributed to the decline in circulation has been identified as the sharp increases in the cover price of The Star. In January 1994 The Star cost R1. This increased to R1,10 in June 1994 and went up to R1,50 at the beginning of 1995 — representing a 50% increase in a year.

The drop in newspaper sales has, in part, also been ascribed to the rising crime rate. Car hijackings and attacks on motorists have made many motorists wary of conducting transactions from their car windows. Street sales account for about a quarter of total newspaper sales.

The Star's management, marketing and editorial teams have set up a joint task force to examine circulation issues and have come up with a positive, proactive policy.

All newspapers will face similar strategy questions, but The Star's readers can rest assured that it remains Greater Johannesburg's most popular newspaper.

Censorship, publication control and arts councils must go

Kevin O'Grady

PRETORIA — A government-appointed task group yesterday recommended the abolition of all censorship laws and the scrapping of performing arts councils.

The 23-member arts and culture task group handed a 387-page report on transforming the arts to Arts and Culture Minister Ben Ngubane. The proposals will form the basis of a White Paper.

It said censorship and publication control in SA had stunted the development of literature and resulted in the banning of

"countless publications and authors".

The Publications Control Board and all legislation concerned with censorship should be abolished and replaced only by "a system of classifying publications to protect minors".

The report also recommended that arts education should be made compulsory during the first 10 years of schooling, and Ngubane would meet Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu to "ensure proposals are carried out through to his ministry", said task group chairman Andries Ohiphant.

He said the four provincial performing

arts councils should be replaced by statutory arts, culture and heritage councils at national, provincial and local level.

The councils had created an "untenable division" in the arts that had resulted in the bulk of public funds being allocated to "no more than four institutions", the report said. They should be declared null and void and all assets transferred to government structures in their areas. Their performing companies should become independent and work towards self-sufficiency. Independent performing arts bodies should be established in Northern Province, Eastern

Transvaal, Northwest and Eastern Cape.

The report set down guidelines for the provision of funds — at least a third of total funding — and facilities (50%) for community-based arts and culture.

Ohiphant said members of the new councils would "work on a voluntary basis as part of their civic duty" and would be replaced after two or three years to "ensure no power bases are developed around public resources". Their role would be to advise Ngubane on funding and policy.

Arts and culture director-general Roger Jarline called for an increase in his de-

partment's cut of the national budget to 1% and for the private sector to play a role in funding arts and culture.

The report also dealt with developing heritage resources and recommended that a "museum of resistance" be established in the prison on Robben Island and that the island be declared a national monument.

It said books should be exempt from VAT, customs duties and import tariffs. Artworks should be exempt from VAT while craftwork should either be zero-rated or have its VAT threshold raised.

● Picture: Page 3

report

Business Day circulation hits record high

Business Day Reporter.

(243) BD 1/8/95
BUSINESS Day's average daily circulation reached a record high of 36 690 during the first half of this year. Circulation was 8,4% higher than the 34 092 average in the corresponding period of 1994 and higher than the 35 076 of last year's second half.

Other newspapers have yet to announce circulation figures, but yesterday The Star said it anticipated a 12% circulation drop, with Saturday Star sales falling 9,2%.

Business Day editor Jim Jones said the sales increase was most encouraging.

"Other newspapers have blamed sharp circulation drops on falling demand for information after last year's election. Business Day's readers have proved this to be incorrect. They are looking for informed comment and useful news. They want to know where their country is heading.

"Advertisers realise the advantages of using an authoritative newspaper to carry their message, with the result that Business Day's advertising revenues have risen this year. Rising costs compelled us to increase the cover price, but this did not adversely affect sales."

Sowetan launches a drive to go national

(243) BD 3/8/95
Amanda Vermeulen

SA's largest black daily newspaper, Sowetan, kicks off its campaign to establish itself nationally by printing in Durban next month.

GM Roger Wellsted said plans to print in Cape Town would follow at a later stage as the market was still being tested in that region.

The print run in Durban would be 30 000, and infrastructure and technology would be developed in the Eastern Cape next year for a move into that region. Regional editions are currently inserted in the Durban papers, and plans for a similar move in Cape Town are on the drawing board.

At present only about 2 000 copies are distributed in Cape Town.

Wellsted said Sowetan would also open advertising offices in KwaZulu-Natal next month to canvass advertising from local companies in the province. New Nation, which was acquired by Sowetan parent Corporate Africa earlier this year, has been rejuvenated and circulation steadily improved in its first auditing period from April to June.

Both newspapers would soon be available on subscription in the Johannesburg CBD and the northern suburbs. Wellsted said there was a growing base of white readers of the Sowetan.

Sowetan's average daily sales for the audited period January to June declined to 208 358 compared to 217 823 for the corresponding period last year, but the circulation was up on the July to December 1994 figures of 190 586.

Wellsted said the high January to June figures last year reflected the media attention around the election period.

New Nation's audited figures for April to June showed the weekly peaking at 20 684 copies in June, with an average of almost 18 000 sales for the three month period.

Cape Newspapers on top

STAFF REPORTER

THE newspapers in the Cape Newspapers stable have performed well in the first half of this year despite a generally depressed newspaper sales market, managing director Mr Rory Wilson said yesterday.

Both the Cape Times and the Argus continued to provide total dominance of the core area, the Peninsula, and were way ahead of their nearest competitor, the Afrikaans language morning newspaper the Burger.

"Indeed, the Argus alone continues to

reach more than twice the daily sale of the Burger in the Peninsula. This is where the most economically active people of the Western Cape live and these are the people whom we are single-mindedly and successfully delivering to our advertisers."

The recent relaunch of both newspapers had ensured a better service to their chosen markets and both the Cape Times and the Argus now reached different audiences.

(243) CT 4/8/95
The change in readership figures for the first six months of the year reflected this, Mr Wilson said.

Argus dominates Peninsula market ⁽²⁴³⁾

ARG 4/8/95

THE ARGUS and Weekend Argus continue to dominate the core market of the Cape Peninsula

Papers in the Cape Newspapers stable performed well in the first half of the year in a generally depressed newspaper sales market, says Rory Wilson, the company's managing director.

He was commenting on circulation figures for January-June

The Argus ABC January to June 1995 was 89 014 (1994 - 97 966).

Weekend Argus ABC January to June 1995 was 119 841 (1994 - 111 904).

Cape Times ABC January to June 1995 was 54 947 (1994 - 57 815)

"We have done what we set out to do, deliver a targeted readership to our many and varied advertisers," Mr Wilson said today.

While The Argus daily editions concentrate on the Peninsula and immediate Western Cape environs, Weekend Argus covers that area plus an extended market elsewhere.

Said Mr Wilson "We will continue to produce focused newspapers of exceptional quality. And we won't chase after readers in faraway places just to inflate our sales figures.

"Our two daily newspapers, The Argus and the Cape Times, continue to provide total dominance of our core area. They are both way, way ahead of our nearest competitor in both sales and readership in our core area, the Peninsula.

"Indeed, The Argus alone continues to reach more than twice the daily sale of Die Burger in the Peninsula. This is where the most economically active people of the Western Cape live and these are the people who we are single-mindedly and successfully delivering to our advertisers.

"Both our daily newspapers have been carefully recrafted by their editors to ensure that they better serve their chosen markets. The Cape Times and The Argus now reach different audiences and the change in our readership figures for the first six months of the year reflects this.

"Weekend Argus has also adopted a more focused strategy, providing a completely different editorial pace and content in its two editions. The Saturday reader and the Sunday reader now have a range of supplements and sections which together cater for every reading taste."

sed
gan

Press freedom is scarce in Africa

Iden Wetherell

SOUTH AFRICA is among only four African countries possessing a free press, said International Press Institute director Johann Fritz at the Harare Freedom of Expression Indaba this week. The others are Botswana, Malawi and Namibia. Nineteen countries have a partly free press, he said, and 28 have no free press at all, according to a Freedom House report.

Those countries without a free press, such as Nigeria, were among the most populous, Fritz noted, which meant 80 percent of the entire African population does not have access even to partly free domestic media.

He accused African leaders of using the criminal court system to settle personal grievances, citing defamation as the most common charge. Togo, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Zambia and Zimbabwe had all witnessed harassment of journalists in this regard, he said.

"If the authorities and overly sensitive politicians react to allegations with criminal charges of defamation and slander," he said, "then it seems quite obvious they will crack down on the media if it comes to issues which touch their political interests."

Fritz referred to "cosmetic changes" made by African governments to create the illusion of progress towards democracy. This

required a shift, he said, in the means used to control the press. "Rather than using overt violence ... many governments sought recourse through the courts in an attempt to criminalise the actions of journalists."

In an attempt to demonstrate a liberal attitude, some governments now permitted independent publications. But independent publications were subject to punitive taxes and regulations, controls on newsprint, or on printing presses and distribution channels, Fritz observed.

In countries such as Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Zimbabwe where governments tolerate an independent press, while maintaining tight control over the electronic media, the rural

population — which has no access to newspapers — is deprived of responsible and reliable information.

Fritz said a democratic government needed feedback from its citizens, who can only respond if they are properly informed. "If radio, TV, and news agencies are controlled and function as mouthpieces of government, democracy is unattainable," he said.

Intolerance was the child of ignorance, he said. The strongest safeguards against intolerance were education and information. Quoting Bernard Levin, Fritz said: "If you have a small number of clever brutes and a large number of simple folk, it is very likely the clever brutes will live off the simple folk forever".

WWM 4-10/879s

(243)

City Press group on top

CP 6/8/95
(243)
OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE NASPERS Group, which owns City Press, had an excellent first quarter to June, creating a solid foundation for strong growth in the rest of the financial year, executive chairman Ton Vosloo said at the company's AGM on Friday.

Vosloo also announced that City Press had made a profit for the first time in its existence.

He said the group hoped to build on the growth patterns established in the 1994 financial year in which all the major divisions performed exceptionally well. During that period pre-tax profit grew 45 percent from R156m to R226m while earnings per share, before extraordinary items, had been raised by 51 percent to 139c.

The dividend for the year had been increased by 50 percent.

Vosloo also announced plans to restructure the Naspers group in order to increase the tradeability of the shares in the unlisted Naspers Holdings. The latter was created at the time of the listing of Naspers in September last year to safeguard control of the group.

It was anticipated at the time that trading in Holdings's shares would be cumbersome because of the tender system used. "As a result, the gap between the price of Naspers's quoted shares and Holdings' unquoted shares widened. A further problem was that future rights issues by Naspers could dilute Holdings' interest.

"However, since the listing of Naspers, the rules of the JSE have been changed in such a way that the shares of Holdings can now be listed without control of Naspers being jeopardised in the process," Vosloo said.

The scheme for restructuring was being finalised and should be in place before the end of the year.

Vosloo said among the highlights of the year were the excellent results achieved by City Press and Drum magazine, which increased circulation dramatically in the six months to June.

The group's three Afrikaans dailies gained more in circulation than any of their competitors and enjoyed strong advertising support, Vosloo said.

Public servants could fight new 'glasnost' Bill

CAPE TOWN — SA's public servants were likely to "fight" new laws which would give the public greater access to government documents through SA's Open Democracy Bill, the house communications committee heard yesterday. ~~SAPA~~ (243)

This had been so with public servants in other countries where similar freedom of information laws had been enacted, Canadian information expert Thomas Riley told the committee. 120/7/8/95

"The law will go through a difficult process. Public servants will fight it before a culture of releasing documents is established," he said.

The Bill was a "step up" on the US Freedom of Information Act, said Riley, who helped to draw up a code on access to government information for the Hong Kong government in 1994.

The Bill detailed the administrative steps to be followed to assist members of the public, even illiterates who wanted information.

When the Bill was passed SA would become the 15th country in the world to have freedom of information laws, Riley said.

While the Bill correctly restricted public access to certain types of government information, Riley said he knew of no instance where information released had harmed government.

"It might have embarrassed the government but never harmed it. Of course, though, there is no such thing as total openness. Government cannot operate in a fish-bowl. There must be a certain amount of secrecy."

In 1992, of the 521 000 requests made to the US government for information only 4% of the requests had been turned down.

While the cost of implementing freedom of information laws was low — in Canada the federal government spent only a few million dollars annually — the legislation would help democratise government institutions. — Sapa.



DAILY RUN Deon du Plessis, the managing director of Gauteng Newspapers, holds a spread of the group's publications PHOTO JOHN WOODROOF

Independent's new launches pay off

BY CHARLOTTE MATHEWS

INVESTMENT EDITOR

Strong advertising and circulation revenue boosted attributable profit from Independent Newspapers, formerly Argus Newspapers, by 45 percent to R21,3 million in the six months to June compared with the same period last year

"It has been a busy half-year with the successful launch of The Sunday Independent, Sunday Life and Business Report, and the re-launch of the Cape Times and the Mercury," said John Featherstone, the chief executive.

Turnover grew 20 percent to R418,3 million on which trading income rose by 43 percent to R40,2 million, showing operating margins at close to 10 percent from 8 percent previously.

Asked about the costs of the new launches, Tony Howard, the financial director of Independent Newspapers, said the board had decided it would be fairer to match costs with revenue since, for example, only one issue of The Sunday Independent and Sunday Life magazine had appeared by the end of June.

Featherstone said increased revenue from these initiatives would

start to flow in the second half of the year ⁽²⁴³⁾ *CT(MR) 15/8/95*

An abnormal item of R4,6 million (R1,9 million) was incurred on the costs of the move to a full-page make-up system.

On earnings of 47,1c (33,0c) a share, a dividend of 20c (16,9c) was declared, covered nearly two-and-a-half times by earnings. This cover is in line with the dividend declared last December and it is likely to be similar in the future.

The group has capital commitments of R25,7 million on the costs of installing the new electronic pagination package.

Featherstone said Business Report and The Sunday Independent had proven more successful than expected and had significantly boosted revenues, both nationally and regionally.

Additional sources of revenue, over the next few months, such as the printing of educational supplements, were being investigated.

Deon du Plessis, the managing director of Gauteng Newspapers, said plans for the future included the launch of The Star and SA Times International in London and the possibility of moving into electronic publishing.

Newspaper firm beats lower circulation blues

Marcia Klein

INDEPENDENT Newspapers — formerly Argus Newspapers — increased earnings by 42,7% to 47,1c (33c) a share in the six months to June despite lower circulation levels.

Results are not strictly comparable due to the change in year-end from March to December and the unbundling of the company from Argus Holdings.

The company, whose publications include The Star, The Saturday Star, The Sunday Independent and publications in Pretoria, Natal and the Cape, increased turnover almost 20% to R418,3m (R349,3m) and operating profit 43,4% to R40,2m (R28,1m).

Comparative figures for the previous year have been restated to reflect the change in its interest in The Sowetan from being wholly owned to an associate and the elimination of certain abnormal items in-

cluded in the year to March 1994, its former year-end.

After abnormal items of R4,6m (R2m), interest paid and income from investments, pre-tax income was 35,1% higher at R34,6m (R25,6m) Net attributable income was R21,3m against R14,6m, and a dividend of 20c a share was declared.

CE John Featherstone said the results were achieved "notwithstanding the decline in circulation levels industrywide".

The results placed Independent Newspapers on track to report the strong earnings growth predicted in the annual report.

The group had benefited from strong advertising and circulation revenue, "the latter at some cost to sales levels in common with much of the industry".

The launch of Business Report and The Sunday Independent had "proved more successful than ex-

pected and boosted revenues on both a national and regional basis".

Research had shown a higher readership of Business Report than expected, "more than four times" that of Business Day It was also well received in Pretoria and Cape Town.

Sunday Independent had only been published for six weeks, but initial indications were that it would "exceed forecast circulation (30 000 copies) by 15% to 20% this year alone".

(243)

BD 15/8/95

Independent's launches pay off

Star 15/8/95 (243)

■ BY CHARLOTTE MATTHEWS

Strong advertising and circulation revenue boosted attributable profit from Independent Newspapers, formerly Argus Newspapers, by 45 percent to R21,3 million in the six months to June compared with the same period last year

"It has been a busy half-year with the successful launch of The Sunday Independent, Sunday Life and Business Report, and the re-launch of the Cape Times and the Mercury," said John Featherstone, the chief executive

Turnover grew 20 percent to

R418,3 million on which trading income rose by 43 percent to R40,2 million, showing operating margins at close to 10 percent from eight percent previously

Asked about the costs of the new launches, Tony Howard, the financial director of Independent Newspapers, said the board had decided it would be fairer to match costs with revenue since, for example, only one issue of The Sunday Independent and Sunday Life magazine had appeared by the end of June

Featherstone said increased revenue from these initiatives

would start to flow in the second half of the year

An abnormal item of R4,6 million (R1,9 million) was incurred on the costs of the move to a full-page make-up system

On earnings of 47,1c (33,0c) a share, a dividend of 20c (16,9c) was declared, covered nearly two-and-a-half times by earnings. This cover is in line with the dividend declared last December and it is likely to be similar in the future

The group has capital commitments of R25,7 million on the costs of installing the new electronic pagination package

Featherstone said Business Report and The Sunday Independent had proven more successful than expected and had significantly boosted revenues, both nationally and regionally

Additional sources of revenue, over the next few months, such as the printing of educational supplements, were being investigated

Deon du Plessis, the managing director of Gauteng Newspapers, said plans for the future included the launch of The Star and SA Times International in London and the possibility of moving into electronic publishing

Flattering earnings

Since Tony O'Reilly's Independent Group took over the former Argus Newspapers there have been a number of changes, including the name change of the SA operations and a new year-end. Consequently, interim results to end-June offer the first clear view of Independent Newspapers since the change in control

The shape of the numbers is attractive — an increase of almost 20% in turnover, with margins which have widened from 8% to nearly 10% and a healthy looking 45% increase in attributable earnings. But a number of factors — not apparent in the accounts — flatter the performance.

First is the low base that the interims are coming off. The previous period included three good months of revenue as political advertisements were placed before the elections and reader interest in the run-up to the elections was high.

In the second quarter, though, circulation and revenue fell dramatically as major strikes hit the motor and retail industries and business productivity declined with the high number of holidays. The change of year-end from March allows calculation of quarterly results, and this shows Independent Newspapers making an attributable loss of about R600 000 in the second quarter of 1994.

Results have also been boosted by a bold strategy of increasing cover prices, on av-

FINANCIAL MAIL • AUGUST • 18 • 1995 • 87

erage by about 40%, and, perversely, by declining circulation, which must lower production costs. This, with advertising volumes which management says were "firm," fed the increase in turnover.

The problem is that it could be a short-term benefit if circulation does not improve. Sales volumes are down across the board. For example, latest audited figures show *The Star* losing 12,5% over the same period. If the downward trend continues, advertising rates could come under pressure.

The third issue is the most contentious. Unquantified launch costs of three new titles — *Business Report*, *The Sunday Independent* and *Sunday Life* (the new Sunday magazine) — have been deferred until they

can be matched by revenue from the publications.

Financial director Tony Howard says that the board took this decision because little revenue had been generated by the new papers in the reporting period. He adds that the final figure for the launches has not been calculated and, even if he had it, he could probably not disclose the amounts.

These must be significant. "Had we included the costs now, it would have unfairly depressed shareholders' earnings. They will be brought to book to match future revenue from the new publications," he says — adding that this may take longer than the next six months. It's possible the launch costs will not be seen in full-year results.

Independent Newspapers could choose to write them off over a number of years. It's an odd accounting practice, offsetting expenses already incurred against hypothetical future revenue.

Perhaps shareholders would have preferred to take the costs upfront and enjoy the full and undiluted benefits of revenue from the new publications later. That is what other companies have done.

The share price — R12,75 this week — has firmed since earlier this year, but is only marginally above year-ago levels and below the R15 high soon after listing. These results lower the price to a more realistic 12,6. The *FM* felt the share was expensive in the

past — it looks more fairly priced now as full-year EPS will probably increase by more than 30%.

Shaun Harris

CALL FOR GOVT TO FUND BLACK MEDIA PROJECTS

Editors differ on foreign ownership

BLACK EDITORS have called for measures to be included in the constitution that would ensure the media are no longer monopolised by white owners. **ANTHONY JOHNSON**, Political Correspondent, reports

BLACK and white editors are united in calling for rights to freedom of expression to be beefed up in the final constitution — but differ sharply on the effect of foreign ownership on press freedom.

In evidence presented to a sub-committee of the Constitutional Assembly yesterday, differences also emerged between the Black Editors Forum (BEF) and the Conference of Editors on how diversity in the press should be achieved

The chairman of the BEF and editor of Tribute magazine, Mr Thami Mazwai, said the constitution should limit foreign ownership to a 20% stake.

It would be folly to allow the media to come under foreign control as they would "dance to the tune of foreigners", he said

The BEF called for anti-trust or anti-monopoly restrictions that would facilitate the entry of players from the black communities into the media to ensure diversity

It said the constitution should also enable the government to finance media operations owned by entrepreneurs from the African, coloured and Indian communities.

Imbalances

"The constitution must provide for the eradication of the imbalances of the past to ensure that the media do not continue to be in the hands of the white minority," the BEF said.

The political editor of the Sowetan and former president of the Media Workers Association of SA (Mwasa), Mr Mathatu Tsedu, said

(243)
the dominance by four major newspaper groups did not allow for freedom of expression in practice CT 22/8/95

The editor of the Natal Mercury and deputy chairman of the Conference of Editors, Mr John Patten, said the press was undergoing a transition that could be facilitated by foreign capital.

Foreign money had helped the alternative media and could now boost diversity

Sunday Times editor Mr Ken Owen questioned the practicability of trying to restrict foreign influence. "What do we do, shoot down their satellites?"

The Conference of Editors asked that the constitution be amended to elevate freedom of expression to the highest values recognised by the constitution

It also asked that common law be brought under the constitution's sway to halt the law of defamation being used to curtail the press's scope to raise matters of

A remarkable 'gift' from Govt - SA media will

Star 23/8/95

kill it yet
(243)

The most democratic piece of legislation yet drafted in this country, other than the Constitution itself, will soon be ready for adoption by the Cabinet and could become law early next year.

This is the Open Democracy Bill, which quite literally throws open the whole of the government to public scrutiny.

Any member of the public, which also means any newspaper, television or radio reporter, will have the right to attend any meeting of a governmental body, and to have access to any document or record relating to the affairs of such a body, except for certain restricted categories of information which are precisely defined in the proposed new law.

There is also a 'whistle-blower's' clause to protect any government employee who reveals information, to a newspaper or to the authorities, about malpractices in the department where he or she works.

There are only 14 other countries in the world which have such freedom of information laws entrenching the principle that citizens have a right to know what their government is doing, and that the government has a legal obligation to tell them.

With the clause in the Constitution

guaranteeing freedom of speech and the media, this places us not only in an altogether different league from the rest of the African continent, but right up front among the handful of real democracies in the world.

Amid all the carping and scepticism one hears at the moment, I hope this fact is appreciated. Given what we were told would happen if South Africa ever got majority rule, it is astounding. And a revelation, surely, of the extent to which the people of this nation were indoctrinated.

What surprises me, though, is that the media, which stands to be the main beneficiary of this new law, has shown so little interest in it.

Input

The task force drafting the Bill has held a series of workshops around the country for nearly a year, listening to input from a wide range of organisations and individuals — trade unions, human rights organisations, universities, law schools, community groups, the Rural Foundation, even the Development Bank. But few of the country's newspaper editors or other senior journalists have bothered to attend.

Now, inexplicably, one publication, the Financial Mail, is campaigning against the Bill. Its reasons are beyond my understanding.

"Even a superficial examination of

the Bill," the magazine said in a leading article, "reveals Government's inability to understand the concept of press freedom and the public's right to be informed."

The FM goes on to contend that far from promoting open government, the Bill will achieve the opposite. "It will effectively give Government at all levels powers to manage news and will create additional obstacles to the free flow of information."

It must have been a superficial examination indeed, for I have studied this Bill in detail at various stages of its evolution — it is now in the fourth version of its ninth draft — and I cannot for the life of me see how such a conclusion can be drawn.

How can giving reporters the right to attend meetings of governmental bodies, such as the boards of parastatal corporations, be seen as restricting the press or obstructing the free flow of information?

How can giving reporters the right of access to any document, or record, or piece of information in the possession of a governmental body, be seen as some new form of censorship or news management?

True, there are categories of information that are excluded — the invasion of privacy of individuals, certain medical information about employees, matters that might prejudice law enforcement or legal proceedings, that might jeopardise state se-

curity or damage a governmental body's economic or commercial interests, that kind of thing.

Some of these exemption clauses may be open to question, some may yet be amended. That is what the workshops have been about. But none, absolutely none, removes any existing right. These are exemptions from a legal right of access that we have never had before.

Cumbersome

It is true, too, that some of the procedures to gain access to information are slower and more cumbersome than they need to be, and there is a complicated system of appeals if the information is refused on the grounds that it falls under one of the restrictive clauses. But the sensible thing is surely to press for improvements to these provisions rather than to denounce the Bill as a whole because of them.

Already such discussions have resulted in the changing of a clause to provide for urgent requests, which will enable one to get the information within five days instead of the standard 30.

I certainly would like to see the appeal procedures simplified and I shall be arguing for this. But whatever the outcome of those representations, I recognise the Bill for what it

is — a massive breakthrough for the media, for the right of ordinary citizens to be informed, and thus for the building of an open democracy.

My main worry is that the lukewarm response of the media as a whole, and the outright opposition of a publication such as the Financial Mail, could cause the Bill to founder.

Legislation such as this is a rarity. It is not often that governments decide of their own accord to subject themselves to such scrutiny. It is the kind of thing that happens only in the first flush of a new regime, when idealism is still fresh and has not yet become sicklied o'er with the pale cast of political power.

Already there are some people in government who see the Bill as a threat. A culture of secretiveness still pervades the corridors of the civil service and, if given half a chance, these bureaucrats will use their considerable skills at procrastination to ensure that the Bill is delayed and ultimately shelved. Indifference and opposition from the very people who should be its most enthusiastic champions is all they need to give them that opportunity.

We have only a brief window of opportunity open to us. If we lose the moment it will be gone for ever. Then South Africa will be the poorer and its media leaders will be largely to blame.

Allister Sparks



Centralise info services, says Mbeki

(243) ARG 26/8/95
GLIVE SAWYER

Political Correspondent

GOVERNMENT information services — previously slammed for duplication and inefficiency — should be transformed into a centralised agency, says Deputy President Thabo Mbeki

Mr Mbeki is political head of the present SA Communications Services, which has been criticised by some as too much of a relic of the old order

The new centralised service could gather, analyse and process information for all government structures

The call was made at the start of a conference of government spokespeople, called against a background of government concerns about its troubled image and wasteful duplication of effort

In further calls, designed to usher in a new information age, Mr Mbeki said:

- All "unwarranted" limitations on freedom of information and expression would be done away with in the new constitution.

- The media had to be beyond the control of government.

- South Africa had to take swift steps to get on to the information superhighway

He repeated a call for debate on a "government slot" in the media.

The conference, being held in Waenhuiskrans in Arniston, is a prelude to the drafting of government information policy.

Mr Mbeki asked delegates, who included ministerial public relations officers, editors and academics, to produce concrete proposals for government consideration

In a reference to the row about the SA Communications Service, Mr Mbeki said the conference would have to "look into this organisation in a purposeful and meaningful manner".

Issues included whether the government information service should be merely an arm of the executive, whether it should be a statutory body, and whether the information portfolio required a fully-fledged ministry.

No govt ads for 'biased' papers

ET 28/8/95

(243)

ARNISTON: A resolution to effectively penalise newspapers without "verifiable affirmative action" policies was adopted by a conference of government communicators at Arniston, yesterday

The proposal seeks to ensure the government places its advertising in "appropriate community media, publications and newspaper groups that implement verifiable affirmative action"

Delegates, including central and provincial government spokesmen, journalists and communications experts, met to devise a new government communication and information policy.

The lack of media diversity and the question of ownership and management of newspapers produced heated debate

The resolution was a watered down version of another, rejected by delegates. The resolution

reflected strong opposition to newspaper monopolies

Delegates noted that access to the media was largely limited "to those who had benefited most from the country's economic and political circumstances"

These interests enjoyed "disproportionate access and undue influence on the outcome and directions of debates". This limited "the growth and vigour of democracy" Delegates resolved that government should use its advertising muscle to ensure greater media diversity, and that control and ownership should reflect South African society

The special communication task force to investigate government communication policy and structures would have to "formulate criteria and mechanisms to test the implementation of affirmative action" — Sapa

'Pandering publications don't get read'

ARNISTON: The more a newspaper pleases the ruling elite the less likely it is to be read, Sunday Times editor Mr Ken Owen told delegates at a conference of communicators here at the weekend

On media diversity, Mr Owen said the problem was not a lack of different voices, but rather that the ANC leadership did not like the voices it heard

He felt dissatisfaction with the invention of a monopoly where none existed. This had to be seen in the context of criticism "notably from (Deputy President) Thabo Mbeki that newspapers did not fairly report what the government was doing"

"I think most of our newspapers are dreadful. Our difficulty is not to find newspapers for black editors who have suffered discrimination, our difficulty is to find competent journalists, at almost any level, to keep our newspapers going," Mr Owen said — Sapa

Foreign ownership of the media: Probe urged

(243)
CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

THE government is to be asked to set up an independent probe into foreign ownership of the media. *ARG 28/8/95*

It will be asked to shift its advertising to media practising "verifiable affirmative action"

These were among resolutions adopted at a "conference of communicators" in Arniston at the weekend.

The conference was attended by national and provincial ministerial and departmental liaison officers, academics and senior journalists.

Resolutions aimed at breaking up the partly foreign-owned "cartel" of the four major newspaper groups were sponsored by a group at the conference which believed the mainstream media did not serve the interests of the majority of South Africans.

There was heated debate on the proposals, with concerns

expressed that limitations on foreign ownership of the media could damage foreign investment across the board.

Critics of proposals to subsidise community media and news organisations practising affirmative action said pumping government money into publications was no guarantee that anyone would read them.

Deputy-President Thabo Mbeki will be asked to appoint a task group to investigate issues raised at the conference.

The group, which must be appointed by September 15, will consist of from five to seven eminent communicators and will have to report by January.

Among its terms of reference will be to find ways to improve communication between the government and poor, mainly illiterate, communities in rural areas.

A further conference will be held to discuss the task group's report.

● See page 17.

Press role 'accepted'

(243) Star 28/8/95

■ BY PATRICK BULGER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — The Government accepted that the media could play the role of "critical commentator" but did not believe that government-media relations should be hostile, according to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki

Mbeki made the comments in his opening address at a conference of government communicators held at Arniston in the Western Cape at the weekend.

He called for the conference earlier this year after he had repeatedly appealed to the media to adjust itself. He alleged at the time that the media was carrying on its role as an opponent of the Government even though democracy had

replaced apartheid.

At the conference Mbeki reaffirmed the Government's commitment to freedom of expression.

The Government had an obligation to keep people informed of its activities and this obligation should be seen in the context of the Government's reconstruction and development efforts, he said

Two academic speakers — Guy Berger who is head of Rhodes University's media studies department, and the University of Fort Hare's Professor Murej Otieno Mak'Ochieng — both advised against an earlier government plan to apply to the SABC for a special government slot to put across its views.

Govt and media: it takes two

243
The Star 28/8/95
Tio Tingo

This past weekend an important Government-convened "conference of communicators" took place in the Western Cape. I was invited, in my capacity as political editor of *The Star*, to present a paper on the strengths and weaknesses of Government communication. Owing to ill-health I could not attend, but colleague Patrick Bulger read my prepared speech, a short version of which follows.

About a year ago, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki got entangled in a furious slanging match with the South African press, particularly the print media. The row had been occasioned by remarks he had made in an address to the Cape Town Press Club and on sundry other platforms.

Mbeki had raised a number of important points including the racial composition of the top echelons of the country's newspapers. He had pointed out, quite justifiably, that except in the case of the two newspapers aimed primarily at a black readership, Sowetan and City Press, top role-playing and decision-making positions were monopolised by white males.

This position, Mbeki had argued, could not but influence the way developments were presented and interpreted.

Now, the local press has operated under very harsh conditions in the past and is indeed still smarting from the heavy restrictions of the era of P.W. Botha's State of Emergency. It is, therefore, sensitive — perhaps too sensitive — to perceived threats to its freedom.

And so although Mbeki's criticism was valid and remains so, the Press reacted out of context, angrily hitting back at the deputy president, portraying him as someone less than happy with the Fourth Estate's newly acquired and constitutionally protected freedom.

But that was not all he had said. He had also asked whether, in the aftermath of our democracy, the Press did not want to take a long and critical look at itself and see if it should not now adopt a more "constructive" role instead of the hostile posture it had "correctly" adopted with regard to the previous apart-

heid governments.

That, if the truth be told, was what led to the attack on the deputy president.

Clearly, the Government has a responsibility to communicate with the country's citizens, and some of us do appreciate Mbeki's concern about a hostile Press more interested in sensational scandals than less sensational but nevertheless important Government developments.

But communication is always a two-way process, and what the public gets to know depends not only on the Fourth Estate but also on Government itself.

Let us be frank with one another. Boring Government announcements or developments, like all other news, competes with the important and perhaps "sensational", "sexy" or "interesting" news — as it is often described perjoratively — for space.

We need to accept Government and Press have different agendas. By their very nature, governments want to inform the citizens what their successes are, and they want to keep hidden away the things which may embarrass them.

Comparison

The Press wants to inform the public about the goings-on both in Government and in the country, but especially to disclose things governments want hidden away.

You may detest the comparison, but people employed by the various arms of the Government are like salesmen and saleswomen. You have a product to sell, and that product is your department, ministry or, indeed, the Government.

How well you succeed at your job will determine, to a certain extent, the amount and kind of publicity your department, ministry or, indeed, the Government gets.

Nobody is guaranteeing you any positive publicity if you do your homework, but this much I can say: the amount and kind of publicity received by your ministry will be directly proportional to the effort you put into your work. With a bit of skill and expertise, even the most adverse publicity can be turned around.

It must be said, however, that it is always better to be on the offensive rather than on the defensive, to be

pro-active rather than reactive with regard to any news. That means that if you know something negative about your ministry might soon be public knowledge, you do not wait for it to be made public by others and then react to that disclosure. Your reaction or denial can never be as effective as the original story to which you are reacting, no matter how unfounded it may be.

What would be better would be for you to take the initiative to make the information public. That way you have a better chance of affecting the way it is presented to the public.

Let us make an example. About a month ago some newspapers ran reports that Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) money allocated to the schoolchildren's feeding scheme in the Eastern Cape had allegedly ended up in the pockets of some corrupt individuals.

In its response, the Government deplored the alleged corruption, but said it had appointed the investigating team which had unearthed the fraud in the first place.

Minister-without-Portfolio Jay Naidoo, who has been singled out for particularly vicious but unfair criticism, assures me that his department had indeed appointed the team which unearthed the alleged fraud, and that the Government was in possession of the information long before it was made public. Had Naidoo's ministry gone public with the information as soon as it received it, it would have come out on the side of angels, and credit would rightly have gone to it for discovering corruption, exposing it and taking concrete action to deal with it.

The major weakness of Government communication, therefore, is its re-activeness instead of being pro-active.

We all need to realise that ours is a mutually beneficial relationship. We need you in the Government because we have a responsibility to inform our readers, you need us in the Press, for you have a responsibility to communicate with the citizens.

I am sure you can also say the same about us, but one sometimes senses that some among you feel they do us a favour by making either information or their ministers available to us.

I, for instance, have started invit-

ing top political leaders to a luncheon with *The Star's* political team as well as top editorial and management executives at our office.

This, as I see it, is an important opportunity both for us and the politicians involved. For us it is an opportunity for an off-the-record briefing with the political movers and shakers, and for them it is an invaluable opportunity to interact with our political writers and the editors who write editorials about them, their parties and the Government.

And yet, the response has not been exactly overwhelming. Except for Inkatha Freedom Party leader and Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who responded two days after receiving my invitation and has already been to *The Star* for lunch, others — including President Mandela and Deputy President de Klerk (the latter had now confirmed attendance late in September) — did not even acknowledge receipt of my invitations for a full month.

It was only a month later, when I re-issued the invitations, that these leaders' offices then contacted me to apologise for their failure to acknowledge receipt of the earlier invitations and to say the matter was receiving attention. Three weeks later, I am still waiting.

Favour

The second weakness in Government communication, therefore, is the assumption by Government communicators which says *My* share doing the Press — and, by extension, the public — a favour by talking to them and making themselves and their ministers available. Surely it should not be necessary to remind you that you and your ministers are, after all, public servants.

Take the RDP office, for instance. Other than Minister Jay Naidoo and, perhaps, his Director-General Bernie Fanaroff, who else has a high public profile in this most crucial of departments? Why has that ministry's media liaison department failed so lamentably to explain the problems encountered with regard to delivery on the RDP and the successes, limited though they may be, that they have attained?

This conference may do well to answer that question.

ONE OF
THE
Kaizer
'yatsumba

press

(243)

Star 26/8/95

Call for independent probe of media, including foreign ownership

Govt spotlight on

PRINT industry is dominated by monopolies, Mbeki's conference concludes

■ BY PATRICK BULGER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — A conference of government communicators has called for a wide-ranging investigation into the South African media, including its ownership and affirmative action.

The conference also called on the Government to direct its multimillion-rand advertising budget to newspapers which have implemented affirmative action policies.

The conference said it would ask the Government to appoint an independent task group to conduct the investigation and to report its findings to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki by the end of January.

The Government is not obliged to accept the recommendations arising from the three-day conference held at Arniston in the Western Cape at the weekend.

But the presence at the conference of about 150 senior spokesmen for the Government at national and provincial level, including representatives from Mbeki's office, suggest the Government will agree to the request to set up the task group.

The conference said it wanted the task group formed by the middle of next month and that its findings would culminate in a policy paper which could form the basis of legislation by the middle of next year.

The conference was called by Mbeki against a background of government dissatisfaction with the way it is being portrayed in the media, especially the print media. It was also intended to define a role for the SA Communication Service (Sacs), which has been criticised for its role as an apologist for the previous government.

Repeated allegations that the English press in particular was monopolistic led to demands from the floor that the monopoly be broken up.

Also heavily criticised was foreign ownership of the media. The example of Independent Newspapers Plc of Ireland's purchase of the former Argus titles attracted criticism but a suggestion that foreign ownership be restricted to 20% of equity was not endorsed.

The assault on the perceived monopoly was led by Enterprise magazine publisher Thami Mazwai who said blacks had no "mentionable stake" in the four major newspaper groups.

"The mainstream media, like many other institutions in the country, is still consciously and unconsciously clinging to the past. Appropriate steps will have to be taken to make it more South African," he said.

Sunday Times editor Ken Owen, among a group of prominent editors present, argued that the monopoly was a myth. "The truth is that South Africa's newspaper market is open, fluid and highly dangerous to existing products that do not keep pace with its demands."

Citing the disappearance of

► To Page 3

Spotlight on media

(243) Star 26/8/95

◀ From Page 1

several titles in the past two decades, Owen argued there was a "vigorous market, full of surprises and opportunities".

The conference resolutions contained three broad recommendations.

The first related to Sacs and upheld the need for a centralised government communication body to manage the Government's corporate image, monitor the media, undertake research, co-ordinate government communications programmes, and provide training and capacity building.

The second related to setting up the task group to establish "criteria and mechanisms to test the implementation of affirmative action" and to probe government sup-

port of community media, training, limitations on cross-media ownership and foreign ownership, and tariffs on items like TV and radio sets.

The third said the task group should vet all major communications projects, including those launched by Sacs, and which have long-term implications for government communication policy.

Among the more controversial proposals was that dealing with government advertising. Although the Government does not yet have a policy on affirmative action, it will be asked to define what criteria would constitute such a policy.

On the basis of these, advertising would be directed at publications that have implemented affirmative action policies.

Giving the state a voice

somean 29/8/95

DEPUTY PRESIDENT THABO MBEKI will address the Black Editors Forum on September 9 on the theme of "The challenge of speaking without a voice, communicating without the means"

It is a theme chosen by the BEF after the debacle earlier this year when Mbeki was thrust into controversy after he supported a request by the Government's communications service for a slot on television to bring Government views to the public

Mbeki's support for the idea was prompted by a growing feeling within Government that the media, in its totality, was not reflecting its activities and achievements adequately

It was this growing feeling that saw Government communications experts and practitioners locked in a two-day conference last weekend outside Arniston in the Western Cape

The conference brought together Ministry spokespersons, departmental liaison officers, journalists and editors to look at shortcomings of the present Government communications strategy, cooperation between various departments and ministries, and a new communications policy for Government

And the cry that came through from liaison officers was that the media was not covering their activities, that the media was more interested in failures than in the delivery of the Reconstruction and Development Programme

After much acrimony, commissions came up with suggested solutions, which included

- A need for a central Government communications body that would provide support services to departments and also manage the corporate image of Government, monitor media and research, provide training and coordinate the communications campaign for reconciliation and reconstruction,

- The appointment of an independent task group on Government communication, which would be appointed by Mbeki before September 15

The task group would comprise between five and seven eminent persons with knowledge and experience in communications,

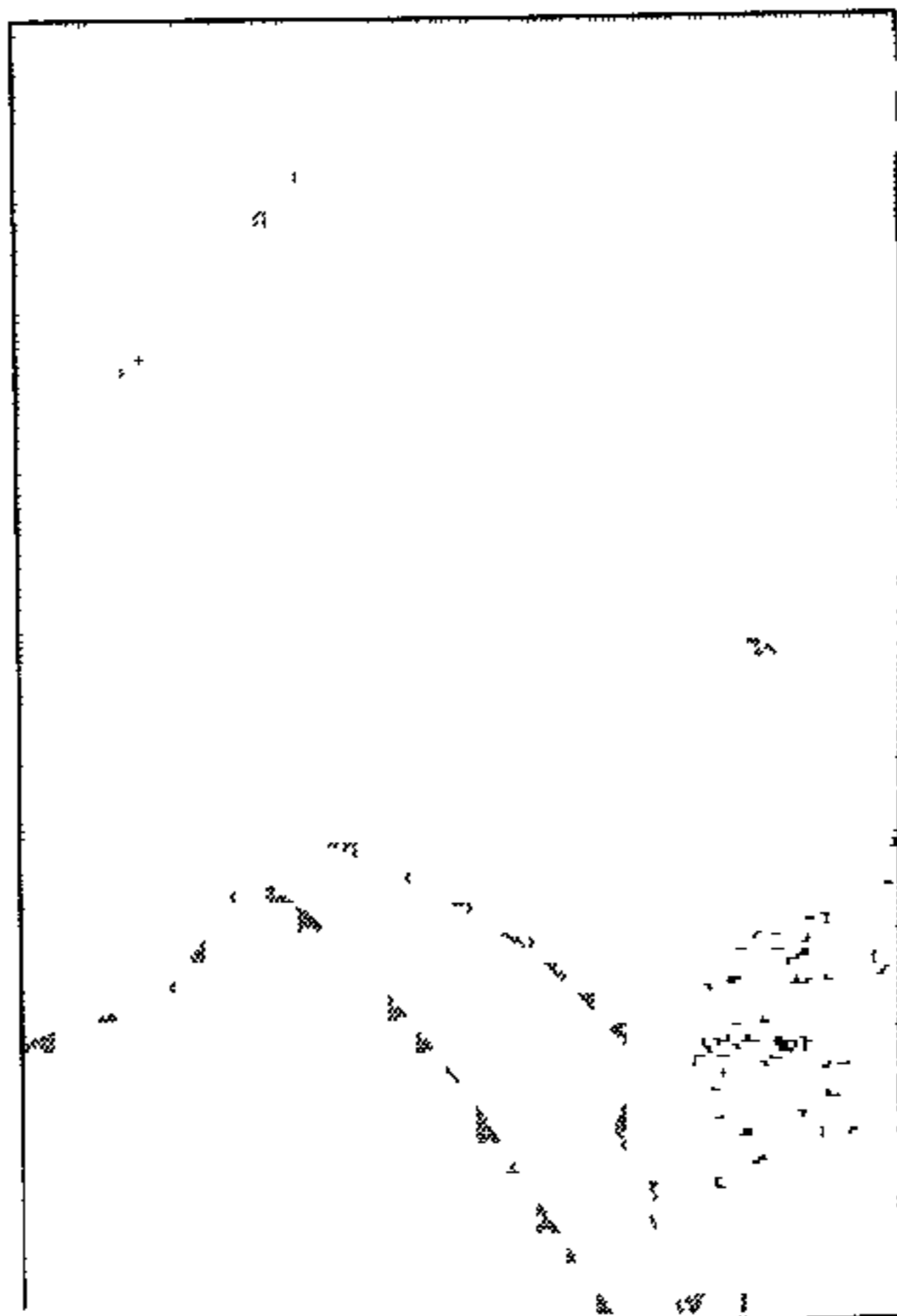
- The task group would do its work in a transparent manner and research the practices of other democratic governments

It would report back to Mbeki by the end of January 1996 and its recommendations would form the basis for a White Paper on Government communications to be presented to the Cabinet by the end of March 1996,

- Urgent recommendations of the task group would have to be implemented after being tabled to Mbeki, while a broader communicators' conference would take place to discuss the task group's recommendations, and

- All major projects with long-term impli-

The Government has begun the long process of changing its relationship with the media to be that of a partner in communications and RDP. Political Editor **Mathatha Tsedu** explains why (243)



Deputy President Thabo Mbeki ... working out a new communications policy for the Government.

cations that are in the process of being undertaken by either the South African Communications Service and other departments would have to be submitted to the task group for approval

SACS had come in for a thorough examination at the conference, where its history as a propaganda arm of the previous regime was seen as a stumbling block to its effective use in present-day circumstances

Fundamental rights

The conference also noted that access to information and freedom of expression were fundamental human rights "and that people have both the right to know and the right to communicate"

It called for the task group to ensure a policy that would enable more effective communication between citizens, between citizens and government, and that communication of government policies and activities reach all sections of the population

This, the conference noted, would need the use of existing media such as print, electronic

and outdoor, adding to these media by facilitating greater diversity within print and electronic media, and the use of Internet (the computer-linked communications system that is growing worldwide)

Special emphasis would have to be placed on government support for community media, limitations on foreign ownership and control of local media, training and capacity development, cross-media ownership, the dropping of import tariffs on radio and TV production equipment, and the formulation of a policy and criteria as well as mechanisms to test the implementation of affirmative action in the media

Emergency funding

Regarding affirmative action, the conference called on the Government to use its multimillion rand advertising muscle by placing advertisements in newspapers and other media that show compliance with affirmative action in their employment codes and ownership stakes

It called for emergency funding for community media, especially the newly licensed radio stations, that were unable to take off due to lack of finance

This funding was to ensure that there was diversity in the media, which was presently a monopoly of four print giants and the SABC

A lively debate ensued - with sharp differences that almost ran along racial lines - on the incentive clause for affirmative action, with pro-print people saying that insisting on equity participation was tampering with private enterprise

The feeling was, however, largely that unless that monopoly in the print media was broken, the struggle for an effective communication policy by Government would be futile as they would be hoping for understanding by forces which are themselves interested in guarding their wealth, amassed through conquest and exploitation of workers

The conference ended on a high note and the task group now has to be appointed

But the challenge, as the BEF has noted, remains. Can this Government of mainly black people rely on the benevolence of a white-owned and -controlled media to communicate its policies?

Mbeki will probably supply some answers on September 9

Newspaper reality eye-opener

(243) Star 30/8/95

Thami Mazwai enjoins us to accept the reality that monopoly conditions prevail in the South African print media and that white middle class males dominate the media agenda. But is this the reality?

Mazwai, who is chairman of the Black Editors' Forum and editor of the prospering Enterprise magazine, used the argument at a conference of senior government communication personnel at Arniston in the Western Cape this past weekend

The conference was called by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki who has argued that white government is duty-bound to communicate itself to the citizenry, this is not happening for a variety of reasons

Whether the communications conference correctly assessed these reasons is open to question For a start, the conference would have benefited from a more lucid statement of the

problem

What exactly is that problem?

It cannot be bad publicity alone because along with the Allan Boesak-type scandals, government has been lauded and praised by a press that Democratic Party leader Tony Leon says is supine

On the one hand government argues that newspapers lack credibility and that they only reach 5% of the population anyway But government's close scrutiny of what the newspapers are saying suggests that the newspapers have a level of credibility that far surpasses television and radio

Interestingly, the SABC has been the subject of a far-reaching process of ideological and racial cleansing that has not assisted its own attempts at credibility In the runup to last April's election and in the preceding four years, the ANC showed great skill at putting across its message. Then, the monopoly argument was

rather less strident. The criticism of newspapers' ownership continued with some delegates objecting to the sale of Argus Newspapers to Independent Newspapers Pte of Ireland

Nobody recalled that President Nelson Mandela's close personal relationship with the Independent's Tony O'Reilly was as important a factor in the sale as was the alleged mineowners' devious attempts to sell the Argus titles to head off an ANC nationalisation bid

The spotlighting of ownership suggested to some a more sinister agenda And Mazwai's injunction to delegates to accept the reality of white domination strengthened this perception

He quoted figures of black staffing on newspapers like The Star that were so ludicrously inaccurate as to bring into question his motives To allege as he did that there are 20 senior whites to four senior blacks on

The Star is absurd He then further suggests that even if his "estimates" are wrong, it is the perception of the facts rather than the facts themselves that should inform a course of action Reality indeed.

The reality, as Sunday Times editor Ken Owen pointed out, is that the newspaper market is highly fluid and dangerous Readerships are plummeting on all but the major black titles like The Sowetan and City Press.

What some in the government really want is a major title like The Star or the Sunday Times to promote the ANC's hegemonic ambitions

More important than ownership was the issue of credibility, Owen said, suggesting that the government could annex all the newspapers it wanted to but if in doing so those newspapers lost credibility, the whole exercise would have been in vain

ANC MP Saei Macozoma reminded

the conference what communication could not achieve and that communication was no substitute for workable government policies that uplift the people In other words, the shack dweller wants a house and running water not a barrage of sophistry to explain his predicament

The conference's call for government's multi-million rand advertising budget to be directed at newspapers that implement affirmative action was transparently venal

With a bit of luck the voices of reason will make themselves heard when and if the government accepts the recommendation to appoint a task group to look into all these issues

As a priority, the task group must rigorously investigate the reality of newspaper ownership and black staffing

It will be interesting then to compare its findings with Thami Mazwai's reality

'Prevent newspaper control'

Cape Town — Newspaper owners should be barred from owning controlling shares in radio or television stations, the Independent Broadcasting Authority recommended in yesterday's report

The IBA said a 15% shareholding would constitute control. It says a newspaper owner should not be allowed control in an area where his publication had more than 15% of total newspaper readership, and its

circulation substantially overlapped with the radio or TV licence target audience

"The effect of this regulation is that the newspaper will still be able to acquire or retain a financial interest in a radio or television licence, but may not be in a position of control over such licence if its readership exceeds the prescribed figure," the report said.

Exemptions from the restric-

tions on control would only be granted where "good cause" was shown

The IBA said its recommendations might need to be reconsidered when anti-trust legislation was reviewed

The major newspaper groups had argued that media economics demanded that they rationalise and synergise their media production facilities to achieve economies of scale — Sapa.

(243) STAN 30/8/95

Leon slams 'ANC attack on freedom of the Press'

Political Correspondent

THE ANC and its allies have started a campaign against Press freedom which could sink foreign investment in South Africa, said Democratic Party leader Tony Leon.

He said the campaign began more than a month ago with an attack by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki on "predominantly white-owned, white-edited and largely white-written newspapers and magazines".

It had gathered momentum with the resignation of Khulu Sibiyana from the Conference of Editors. (243)

Mr Leon said Mr Sibiyana had said black media ownership was more important than Press freedom. AR 6/9/95

"Hot on his heels, the ANC's official viewpoint was expressed by spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa who stated that the sale of media businesses to foreigners was an attempt to keep media resources out of the hands of black South Africans."

Mr Leon said the ANC's viewpoint would have seemed more sincere, if muddle-headed, had they had a sustained programme for affirmative action and empowerment.

He said the ANC's ire presumably was aimed at Tony O'Reilly and Independent Newspapers — "a most unlikely target, since Dr O'Reilly has invested nearly R1 billion in this country in little over two years."

Had other investors shown similar sentiment, the economy would be far more robust.

Subordinating Press freedom in favour of so-called black empowerment had nothing to do with community upliftment and everything to do with muzzling the growth of vibrant, critical and diverse media, he said

Red tape is tying up the news

(243) Star 11/9/95

■ BY ANNA COX
HOPEWELL RADEBE
AND LORNA ZOKUFA

Obtaining information from officials of the Johannesburg Metropolitan Council has proved to be a daunting task entailing the council communication bureaucracy. The Star's city desk reporters have discovered.

The council's policy is that reporters should put their questions in writing and fax them to the communications department, who will then liaise with the department heads to respond, also in writing.

But, when this is done, reporters often find that it takes two to three days, sometimes even a week, before they receive any response, regardless of urgency and daily deadlines. Some questions are completely ignored. Questions relating to matters in the substructures take even longer as they are sent by the communications department to the substructure for a reply. Once received, GJTMC officials still have to approve them.

The response is often short and lacks substance. For follow-up questions, a repetition of the whole process is necessary.

Last week at a press conference, councillor Lindsay Bremner, who is the chairman of the housing and urbanisation committee, accused the press of not properly informing the public, especially about the Moffat Park land invasion.

DP councillor Anchen Dreyer said she recently proposed a motion that, as was policy with former councils, and in the interests of transparency and democracy, all heads of department should be allowed to speak directly to the press.

However, the ANC and the NP voted against it and the motion was defeated.



Thami Mazwai of the Black Editors' Forum in THE MARK GEVISSER PROFILE

Giving the media a black eye

(243) WTM 15-21/9/95

LAST Saturday night at the Carlton Hotel, while a band trundled tonelessly through a rendition of *Stand by Me* in the function room next door, Thami Mazwai's Black Editors' Forum (BEF) gathered to contemplate its relationship to press freedom, to the white mainstream media, to the African National Congress government, and to guest speaker Thabo Mbeki.

About 60 people were there — black editors, journalists and professionals. If there is such a thing as a black middle class, then its publicist — perhaps self-appointed — is Mazwai, editor of *Enterprise* magazine. He introduced Mbeki to the gathering by quipping that, in some circles (the "white media" that have been lambasting him for his call for state regulation of media to ensure affirmative action), he is seen as the deputy president's subaltern in a sustained assault on press freedom and independence.

The room erupted into laughter at the absurdity of the notion. Mbeki then gave one of the more masterful speeches of his career. With his trademark style of the elegant assailant — creeping up on you with the knife-edge of an argument beneath the night cover of Proustian syntax — he urged the BEF to join his government in the task of black upliftment that must remain a central part of transformation.

When his speech was over, *Sowetan* political editor Mathatha Tsedu rose to challenge him. It's all very well for you to speak about black empowerment, he said, but why aren't you helping bail out the African Bank?

Why aren't you making sure that small black businessmen get government contracts?

Mbeki countered by singling out one of the few palefaces present. "I see Anton Harber is here," he said, looking over at the *Mail & Guardian* editor. "Now criticism and complaining is what I expect from him. This forum, on the other hand, has to see itself as a change agent, and not just criticise."

Roll up your sleeves, Mathatha, and stop whingeing like a whitey. Get with the programme. It dovetailed perfectly with perhaps the most cynical conceit of Mbeki's speech, when he rallied his audience by quoting, at length, from a newspaper editorial attacking African National Congress policies as "the very antithesis of reconciliation" and accusing the party of fighting a struggle that is already over.

Here's the cynicism: anyone who reads Johnny Johnson's daily rants on *The Citizen's* leader page will recognise immediately the crusty style of this reactionary campaigner. He is way to the right of a mainstream print media that behaves, on the whole, like a kindly — if occasionally reproachful — aunt to the

ANC. But Mbeki pointedly did not identify the author: he wanted its misguided opinions to stand metonymically for the entire corpus that is the white media.

Interestingly, though, his audience did not rise to the bait. One woman, a candidate advocate, asked (not in so many words) what Mbeki had done, since taking power, to help the ordinary black person. He responded very sharply indeed: those who were starving and who now get one slice of bread a day are very pleased with the government's performance. It is only those "who have not yet graduated from a Toyota Corolla to a BMW who are saying to the government, 'after 16 months, what have you achieved?'"

Mbeki knew he was among a group of people who are dissatisfied with the slowness of transition. While white South Africans — in the private sector and in government — bemoan affir-

mative action, many black professionals still believe, often quite correctly, that there is a glass ceiling to their upward mobility. And so the deputy president was simultaneously wooing his audience (come on board, chaps, and the end result will be your own advancement) and gently rapping it over the knuckles.

It may indeed be risible to say that Thami Mazwai is acting on Mbeki's behalf in an assault on press freedom. Firstly, Mbeki, for all his expressed irritation at media criticism and his ill-conceived plans for TV airtime, has never once suggested curtailing press freedom. Secondly, Mazwai was correct when he wrote, in the latest of his fortnightly *Business Day* columns, that "if it is press freedom we are talking about, then we black journalists know more about the subject than anyone else. We went through detentions, torture, exile, personal and newspaper bannings."

But it is equally correct to say that, at the moment, Mbeki and Mazwai are allies, in that they have both taken up arms against the whiteness of the mainstream media; the former because he perceives it to be hostile to the

government's transformation agenda, the latter because he believes it is thwarting black economic advancement. Perhaps it comes down to the same thing.

But if Mbeki uses the scalpel so gently it takes a while to notice the incision, Mazwai's preferred weapon is the battering ram. "The white media goes out of its way to hammer black enterprise and achievement. If you look at the history of apartheid, there has been a systematic campaign to portray blacks as failures," he tells me. "The white media is interested only in scandals, corruptions and failures of the government."

There is only one way to remedy this situation, Mazwai says: the state must regulate the media. It should do this by placing its immense advertising accounts only in publications that have the requisite number of blacks — and carrots, funding media organisations owned by blacks. It

should also limit foreign ownership in the media. This would enhance rather than limit press freedom by encouraging a diversity of voices. "I and my colleagues in the Black Editors' Forum oppose a government-owned media," he wrote in *Business Day*. "However, ownership and control by the minority is just as undesirable."

Cape Times editor Moegsien Williams, who worked with Mazwai on the *Sowetan*, says that his commitment to press freedom is unrepentable, and credits much of the paper's success to "the way Thami drove his journalists, expected the best from them, sent them back again and again." Mazwai was the day-editor of the *Sowetan* for over a decade. Before that he helped lead the team of black journalists on *The World* which, some say, provided the only real coverage of the 1976/77 uprisings.

He has had two spells in prison, the first in the early 1960s for Pan Africanist Congress activism, the second in the early 1980s, for withholding evidence against one of his sources. He was involved in founding one of the anti-apartheid media unions in the 1980s. He has been at the very typeface of media activism in South Africa.

His political trajectory — from PAC hothead to strident capitalist — is not as surprising as it may at first seem. "Black upliftment" (short-hand for the establishment of a black middle class) has always sat, uneasily, alongside radical socialism in the PAC and the Black Consciousness Movement. Mazwai finally parted with the PAC in 1990, but notes now that most of the 28 000 members of the black elite who buy his magazine are "Africanist in orientation, whether they are PAC, ANC, IFP or even National Party. There is an immense pride in being black and an achiever."

Thami Mazwai's blustering persona — flailing arms, spluttering martucacy weirdly at odds with the facility of his written prose, and ruffled and distracted image — often leads those who dislike him to dismiss him as a buffoon.

But to highlight the obvious contradictions — a strident free marketer calling for state regulation — misses the point: Thami Mazwai lives

and dies by the credo of black economic advancement. That, rather than the free market, is his ideology, and if a regulated environment suits it, then so be it. He has set himself an agenda that he is pursuing single-mindedly, he has tapped into the currents of the ever-expanding black elite and developed a product that is perhaps second only to the porno-market in magazine growth.

Enterprise, he says, "focuses on achievement by blacks in the business economy. I've gone out there to look for those stones of measurable success and come back to write about them. Obviously, some of those stories turned sour. Some couldn't perform, although we gave them lots of coverage. That's not my problem. My task is to let blacks see themselves in a positive light."

He is using exactly the same approach to black advancement in government as he does to black advancement in private enterprise. In an *Enterprise* special series, for example, every provincial minister is getting a whole page of uncritical publicity-fluff. Mazwai, a good journalist, is doing the government's job better than the inept South African Communication Service ever could. "Previous apartheid governments were given this opportunity, and they were then measured against what they said after a year or two. Why must this not apply to blacks?" Mazwai wrote in his July *Enterprise* editorial. Little wonder government official Frank Mentsjes singled him out, in a recent broadcast against media coverage of the RDP, for special praise. Little wonder

some might think he is acting as Mbeki's agent.

His critics in the media world allege that he is setting himself up to be one of the black editors who the newspaper groups might be bullied into hiring by his own campaign, or setting his own publication up as one of the beneficiaries of selective government advertising. He certainly wasn't complaining about foreign ownership of the media, they say, when it seemed that he was about to launch a business daily with Swedish funding.

But listen to Moegsien Williams, the first black editor ever of a traditionally white daily: "82 percent of my readers are black. And yet I am only the sixth black person to be hired here, out of a total staff of 60. So Thami's stand helps me immensely, in that he is sensitising my bosses to the need to fix up these problems. When I go speak to them, I can say 'look, this is what Mazwai is saying'. The pressure is good."

Mazwai tells me that "very few blacks differ with the sentiments I express" and other black journalists express irritation that he seems to be talking on their behalf. "He comes from an era," says one, "where there were very few black voices allowed — Qwelane, Klaaste, Thloloe, himself. And so he got into the habit of speaking for all black people, because he was one of the few who had a voice."

Mazwai has that peculiar relationship with his readers that writers (poets laureate or publicists) often have with their clients: he does not live among them or like them. He, like them, might have a cellphone (40 percent of *Enterprise* readers do, according to the magazine's research), but his home is in Pinville rather than in Kelvin or Noordwyk and is, like its owner, utterly without the pretensions and trappings of yuppiehood. He has had a difficult life: his wife died, three years ago, after delivering their fourth child, for much of his young adulthood he was an alcoholic.

Thami Mazwai has neither the brilliance nor the free-thinking iconoclasm of those Koffi-era journalists whose glamour he so admired growing up in the 1950s in Western Township. But, unlike Can Themba or Casey Motsisi, he got over his addiction, he survived. He knows how



Thami Mazwai: 'My task is to let blacks see themselves in a positive light'

PHOTOGRAPH: HENNER FRANKENFELD

Ndebele under attack at tense Turfloop

WM 15-21/9/95

Turfloop University closed early this week amid student strife. **Philippa Garson** asks what has gone wrong

WHEN Njabulo Ndebele took up his position as vice-chancellor of the University of the North over two years ago, he was glowing with optimism about the institution's future, believing not only in its "tremendous potential", but also in his own role in tapping that potential.

Now, service staff are on strike, the university is closed and a vociferous band of students has united against him and is demanding his resignation. Where did this acclaimed author and educationist go wrong, if he went wrong at all? Were the problems faced by one of the country's poorest universities simply too huge for one person — even an individual of Ndebele's calibre — to surmount? Or are the students simply seizing on the only available scapegoat to vent growing frustration over their dire financial straits?

Amid increasing tensions on campus last week, with students protesting outside Ndebele's office, the university has closed prematurely — a week before vacation was due to begin.

SRC president Musa Zuma told the *Mail & Guardian* that "students feel dissatisfied with Ndebele's service and believe the institution has not been running properly".

Some students accuse Ndebele of

travelling too much and of not being available to tackle their problems.

"Had he been physically present daily to address the problems of the institution perhaps we would not be where we are. Even when he is present he is unavailable. We find this unacceptable. When we need his advice and direction he is not there," said Zuma.

"We are not averse to him travelling to raise funds and project the image of our institution, but as the principal, he has to see to our problems. Our grievances are not directed at him as a person but to his office."

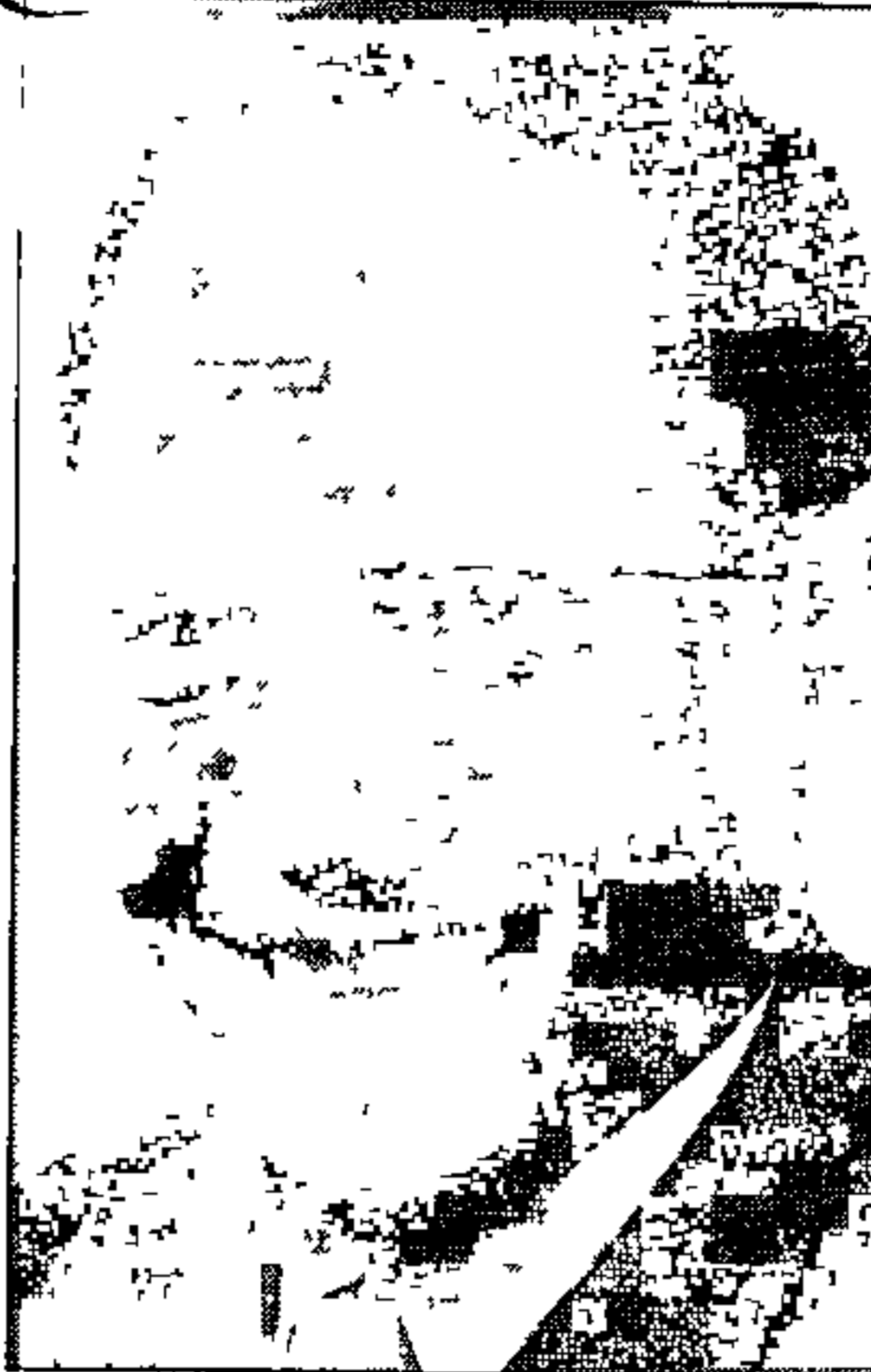
Also a thorn in the side of the students is the fact that Ndebele has been short-listed as one of three candidates for the post of vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town for 1996. What irks them is that "we found out about it in the press".

As South African Students Congress (Sasco) national president David Makhura put it, "the students feel they have been deserted by Ndebele. The problem at Turfloop is there is no back-up staff. When he is not there, the campus is left without a leader."

But Sasco's national office does not support the calls for his resignation. "Our position is that he should stay and deal with the problems at Turfloop. If he leaves, who will replace him? He will be leaving the campus on the brink of disaster," said Makhura.

The SRC and local Sasco branch are also demanding the resignation of Ndebele's assistant, John Wiltshire, whom they accuse of sowing division among striking university workers.

"As students, we need our demands



Njabulo Ndebele: Campus crisis

met. Those people prohibiting progress of the university should move out of the way," said Zuma, adding that Ndebele's commitment to the transformation of the university had been called into question.

One of the students' major grievances is the alleged administrative bungling over the distribution of bursary funds allocated by the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa (Tefsa). Students claim that R800 000 of the R15-million allocated to the university this year was returned to Tefsa, despite the fact that 4 500 students are only provisionally registered because they cannot pay their fees.

Ndebele told the *Mail & Guardian* that calls for his resignation had

"come out of the blue." He said students had given no prior warning before he was dragged off to the university stadium last week to hear their demands. "I would have preferred the students to come and talk to me about it first."

Ndebele said he would not resign unless Council ratified the students' demands at an emergency meeting scheduled for this weekend.

He said he had "vigorously pursued a strategic planning process of the university" to ensure that all stakeholders were represented and to bring about "shared values" on campus. The issue of his travel had been explained at a transformation meeting in June where all student groups were present. "I clarified that the purpose of a chief executive of an institution like this is to play a public relations exercise, to fundraise and provide executive direction to the institution."

Ndebele said the management structure of the university had been streamlined with unnecessary posts abolished and a new management tier created which would be in "charge of the day-to-day running of the university". Several of the new positions still had to be filled.

Today's technology and the presence of a new management tier implied, he said, "that I should not be missed when not on campus."

Ndebele said students had to understand that changing the university would take several years. It was unfortunate, he said, that leading academics visiting the campus as a result of his recent trip to the United States arrived to find the university closed in

the wake of the disruptions.

The enormous problems experienced by the financial aid department were being addressed, with recommendations from a highly qualified financial aid officer from the University of Chicago who visited the university to be implemented. Ndebele said he had not applied for the UCT position, but was nominated. "The fact that I have been short-listed means that I will have to think about the position carefully."

Wiltshire said an investigation into student affairs showed that the SRC had overspent its budget, that a student leader had used a forged document on an SRC letterhead to pay his own fees, and that further "cases of suspected corruption" would be investigated. He said that through his travels, Ndebele had succeeded in raising millions of rands for the university and had established links with many universities and government agencies abroad.

Fort Hare University also closed a week early, with students boycotting classes to protest against scheduled fee increases for next year. Mangosuthu Technikon reopened this week after closing for 10 days when students demanded the expulsion of three allegedly racist lecturers. Unisa has recently reopened after tensions between staff and students over the "unilateral" restructuring of the university led to its temporary closure, and students and striking workers clashed at Pretoria University this week, leaving four people injured.



Krisjan Lemmer LIVE ON THE COURTNEY TIP

Brief encounter

WITH all this skimmer about chaos in Parliament, the manne in the Dorsbult bar has heard some interesting reports of how things really operate there. Late last year, Reverend Arnold Stofile and Mcebisi Ncuka (ANC chief whips the National Assembly and the Senate respectively) were wandering the corridors wondering where all the Bills were (they were, of course, subsequently buried in a flood). In the course of their amblings they ran into an official, got talking to him, and found out he was Kallie Paauw, Minister of legislation. Thus was effected the first encounter between two of the people responsible for scheduling Parliament's programme, and the man who keeps track of all the Bills coming from state law advisers to the executive programme. Oom Krisjan would have thought that that must have been a very useful meeting — though subsequent events in Parliament do seem to indicate otherwise.

Hosts from the past
READERS who have been following the Swaziland ghost problem will be pleased to hear that a host has come to the rescue of our prime minister Prince Mphahlele and his haunted subjects. Mphandlana Shongwe of the Swaziland Youth Congress, who was once chased away by Mphahlele when the youth leader tried to organise a meeting, has now come to help exorcise the

ghosts. Shongwe suggested the troublesome ghosts were attached to Bhekimpi's former ruling party, which banned political meetings in 1973.

Thabo time

OOM KRISJAN agrees with Thabo Mbeki that the media complains too much about the ANC-led government, and has been watching out for positive stories to tell. One to get the ball rolling: Mbeki was only 45 minutes late for his speech to the Black Editors' Forum on Saturday.

Roogievaar revisited

THE South African Communist Party has installed a very effective new security system in its Cape Town offices. So effective is it that Philip Dexter, the party's Western Cape regional secretary, has spent a week shut out of his office as he has not yet acquired the relevant key.

Gogo is watching you

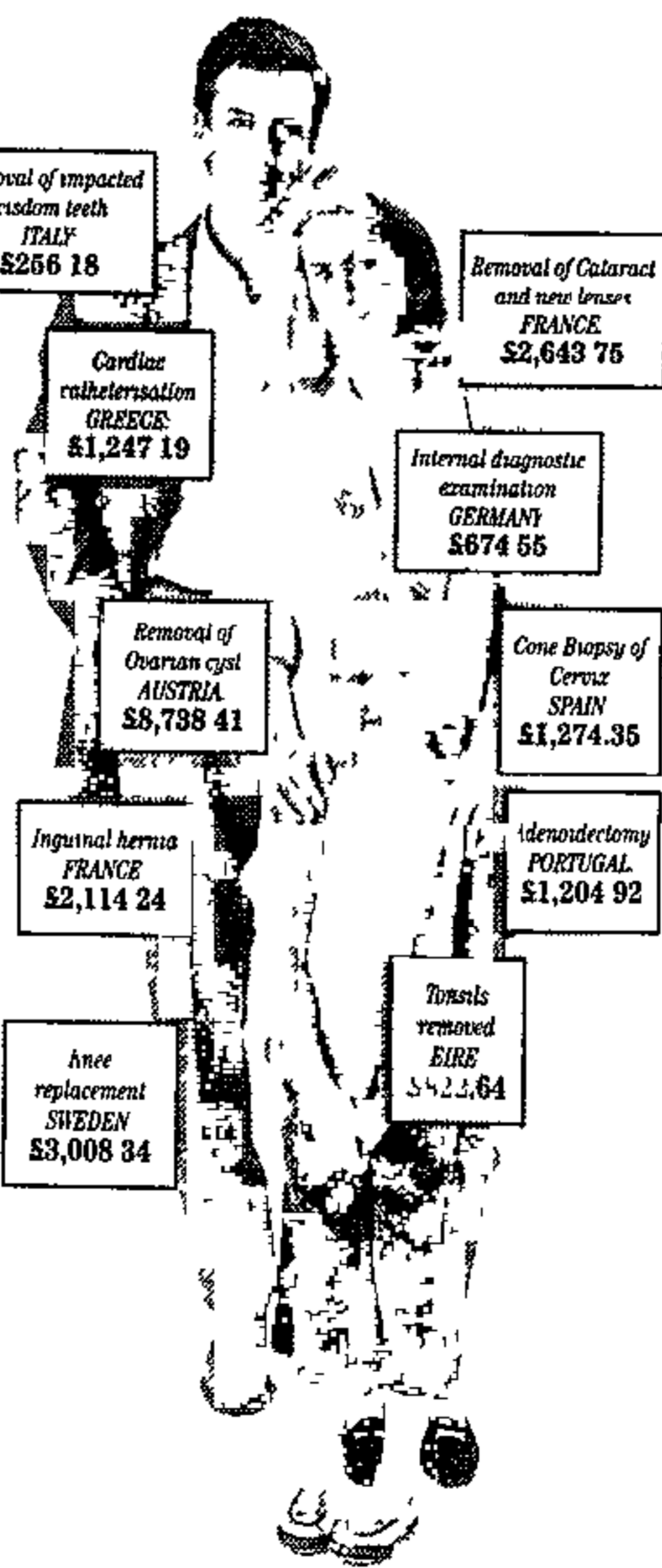
JIRRE, the way technology is starting to get the better of us... At Naude, whose cousin in Klerksdorp recently acquired a cellphone, reports that Vodacom has come up with a creative solution for those who neglect to pay their bills. On switching on their phones, the defaulters hear a message instructing them to pay up. When they get seriously into debt, every call that they make gets automatically forwarded to the accounts department of their service provider. Oom Krisjan is starting to think that maybe Telkom is not so bad after all.

Krisjan's klippings

"WE want to warn very strongly that we shall not accept a situation where men are fooled to submitting applications when posts are already given to certain women in bed when having sex."
— Statement by Northern Province Education Ministry

INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE COVER FROM AS LITTLE AS £8* A WEEK

APPLY NOW FOR
YOUR
10% DISCOUNT



Removal of impacted wisdom teeth
ITALY
£266 18

Removal of Cataract and new lenses
FRANCE
£2,643 75

Cardiac catheterisation
GREECE
£1,247 19

Internal diagnostic examination
GERMANY
£674 55

Removal of Ovarian cyst
AUSTRIA
£8,738 41

Cone Biopsy of Cervix
SPAIN
£1,274 35

Inguinal hernia
FRANCE
£2,114 24

Adenectomy
PORTUGAL
£1,204 92

Knee replacement
SWEDEN
£3,008 34

Tonsils removed
IRELAND
£4,226 64

Take a look at the average medical costs** for these common ailments and then tell us you can't afford PPP medical insurance

£500,000 Annual Cover
for as little as £8* a week

That's right, for as little as £8* a week we'll cover you for medical costs up to an annual maximum of £500 000

And provide the peace of mind that is essential if you are living, working or travelling in a country where medical facilities may be inadequate and private medical treatment prohibitively expensive

PPP is one of the UK's leading medical insurance companies with over 2 million members

PPP's International Division specialises in quality medical insurance for people working or living overseas. Its International Health Plan offers a wide range of options for different needs and budgets, with annual cover up to £1,000,000



PPP
International Healthcare

For immediate cover call anytime day or night.

44 (0) 1892 5033 11
and ask for extension 6389

Send to PPP International, PPP House, 20 Upperton Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 1LH England
Or fax to 44 (0) 1323 432208

*Based on Standard Option Area 3 Europe including UK. Age 30-34 years
**Source: This information is based on the average costs paid by PPP under the International Health Plan between 1/1/94 and 31/12/94 for particular European countries. The value of the claims have been converted into pounds sterling for the purpose of consistency.
The exchange rates used were those prevailing at the time the claim were paid
***This rate is not applicable to Dubai

YES! I would like to know more about the PPP International Health Plan. Please send me further details

TITLE Mr Mrs Miss Ms Dr Other

SURNAME

FORENAME

DATE OF BIRTH

PPP International Health Plan is specifically designed for expatriates. Non-expatriates may apply subject to any applicable governing laws or exchange control regulations.

ADDRESS
COUNTRY
TEL NO FAX NO
CURRENT SCHEME
RENEWAL DATE

TML set to publish Elle magazine

Adrienne Gillomee (243)

BD 15/9/95

TIMES Media Limited's magazine division announced yesterday it had reached an agreement to publish Elle magazine in SA under a joint venture agreement with French publisher Hachette Filipacchi Presse.

Elle is a leading women's fash-

ion and beauty magazine with 25 international editions and a monthly circulation of 4,9-million

Elle magazine's international editions director Francois Vincens said it was the first international women's magazine to be launched into the new SA.

Elle SA will be published in the first quarter of 1996.

Journalists must give guidance

Black lawyers and newsmen must lead in the transformation process

By **Mathatha Tsedu**
Political Editor

WHEN THE BLACK Lawyers Association celebrated the 10 years of existence of its Legal Education Centre in February, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki was the guest speaker

In a speech bemoaning the continued domination of the legal system by whites in a country that was now under virtual black rule, Mbeki called on black lawyers to take the constitutional debate to the "farm worker, the rural poor, the labourer, the domestic worker in a language that all our people can easily understand"

But he ended his speech with a poser for the BLA, asking whether the need still existed for unracial organisations such as the BLA in a democratic South Africa

The response from former national executive director Mr Justice Moloto was swift South Africa, he said needed the BLA now more than ever before

Last weekend, Mbeki was guest speaker at the Black Editors Forum, an organisation of black editors and

senior editorial executives dedicated to redressing the imbalances in the media in favour of blacks

Speaking of the need for blacks as the majority component in the country to set the national agenda, Mbeki said the BEF had a "critical role to play"

"And in playing that role I also believe we have to take courage into our hands, knowing that whatever we say, fundamentally to address the interests of the marginalised will be shouted down by powerful voices as being contrary to national reconciliation, as being racist, as being inspired by our own frustration at our own inability to deliver"

Mbeki said the voice of the majority black citizens who see the Government as their own, who see it as a democratic entity which is trying against serious odds to deliver a better life for all could never be heard above the din of the noise of an allegedly failing government

"That voice may never be heard or may be heard faintly because the level of editorial diversity in our society is at a level that objectively permits for the amplification of the voice of those that are happy to mock and reduce to absurdity the serious effort

country was set on a path of transformation from which there could be no deviation without leaving the apartheid legacy in place

But that transformation, he stressed, could not come about miraculously as none amongst the living could "turn water into wine"

There was therefore a need to develop a national consensus that recognised that "we have to build brick by brick and that there are no completely assembled houses stored in some warehouse that will suddenly replace the ugly slums that ring our towns and cities"

He saw the BEF playing a role in enabling people to understand the realities of transformation During question time, Mbeki said white journalists could afford to set themselves the task of merely criticising government, but black journalists could not limit themselves It was the duty of black journalists to move beyond the confines of critique and to become agents of change

He said while reconciliation was part of Government policy, it was not possible to have reconciliation in the absence of transformation

"All of us who correctly struggle for reconciliation must also struggle for transformation," he said, adding that the achievement of transformation into a truly non-racial and non-sexist society would still need a protracted struggle

Transformation had to be the national agenda, he said, which would manifest itself not only in President Nelson Mandela exuding charm "drinking tea with Mrs Verwoerd in Orania" but one that also made the president a steadfast fighter for genuine liberation

This transformation had not occurred yet, Mbeki said, citing continued white domination of land ownership and the wealth of the country

Whites, he said, continued to dominate the management of the economy, the higher echelons of the public service and the ownership and editing and writing of newspapers and magazines

It was this reality that dictated that affirmative action and empowerment had to be vigorously implemented

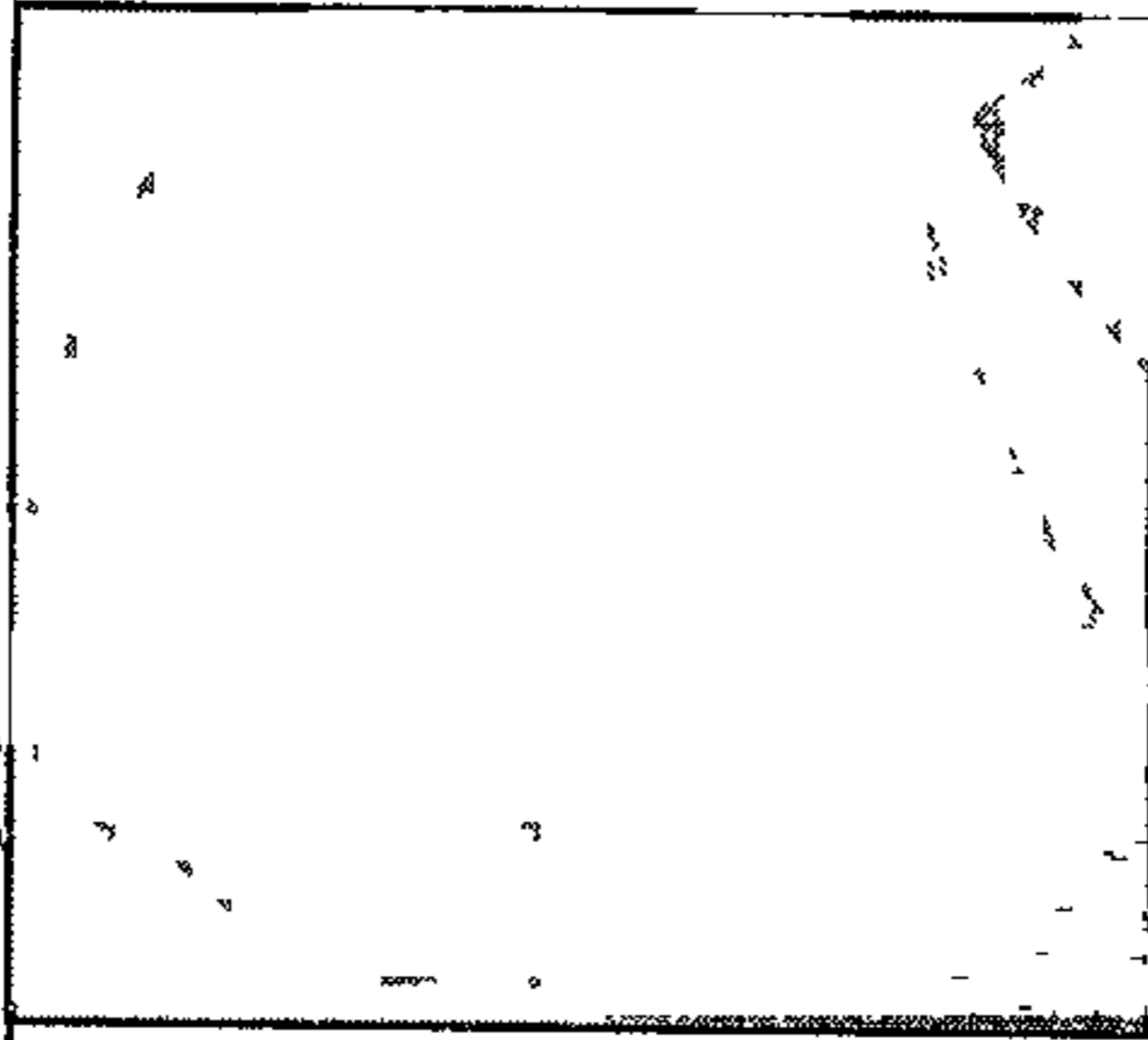
Those who had benefited from the old system, however, "would like us to believe that there is no such thing as an apartheid heritage which continues to define the socio-economic reality of our country"

Mbeki said the apartheid regime had left a huge foreign debt and a national budget that left very little for development

When the black-led government fails to accomplish some of the objectives needed for transformation, the same people shout the loudest

Black newsmen and -women had a critical role to show the reality of the South African situation, he said

(243) Sowetan 15/9/95



Deputy President Thabo Mbeki ...black journalists have a role to play as agents of change.

Times Media to buy Daily Dispatch

CAPE TOWN — Times Media Limited is poised to conclude a deal which will see one of the country's only two remaining independent daily newspapers — East London's Daily Dispatch — changing hands within weeks.

Confirming the negotiations between Dispatch Media and TML, Dispatch Media MD Alan Beaumont said yesterday the two parties were close to an agreement, although there were a few "issues" still to be resolved.

Beaumont said the negotiations had been triggered by Dispatch Media executive chairman Terry Briceland's announcement that he planned to retire at the end of the year. Up for sale is Briceland's 37% shareholding in the company, which delisted from the JSE in 1993 after he and Beaumont, who has an equal holding, staged a management buyout. Other minority shareholders include Standard Merchant Bank and TML, which has a 20% stake and a seat on the board.

Beaumont said Dispatch Media had a close news gathering and advertising

BD 19/9/95
Continued on Page 2

(243)

TML

(243)

BD 19/9/95

Continued from Page 1

relationship with TML, which reduced its 29% holding in the company following the 1993 buyout. The negotiations should be seen against the background of the restructuring of TML's own operations and its parent company's reported plans to "empower black ownership in the media".

The announcement on a deal with TML and the change of ownership would take place simultaneously.

Dispatch Media's flagship is the Daily Dispatch, the Eastern Cape's

largest daily newspaper with readership figures far above TML's Eastern Province Herald and Evening Post.

The newspaper is also one of the few in the country which has managed to show an increase in daily sales — up last year from 37 083 to 37 703.

Madden Cole reports Times Media MD Roy Paulson said last night TML held a 20% share in the Daily Dispatch and had first option on Briceland's and Beaumont's shareholdings. "We had been informed earlier this year they intended selling their shares, and have been involved in negotiations with them to discuss taking up the option."

The parties were close to a deal, but matters had not been finalised.

TML poised to buy Daily Dispatch

TIMES Media Limited is poised to conclude a deal which will see one of the country's only two remaining independent daily newspapers — East London's Daily Dispatch — changing hands in a matter of weeks.

Confirming the negotiations between Dispatch Media and TML, Dispatch Media MD Alan Beaumont said the two parties were

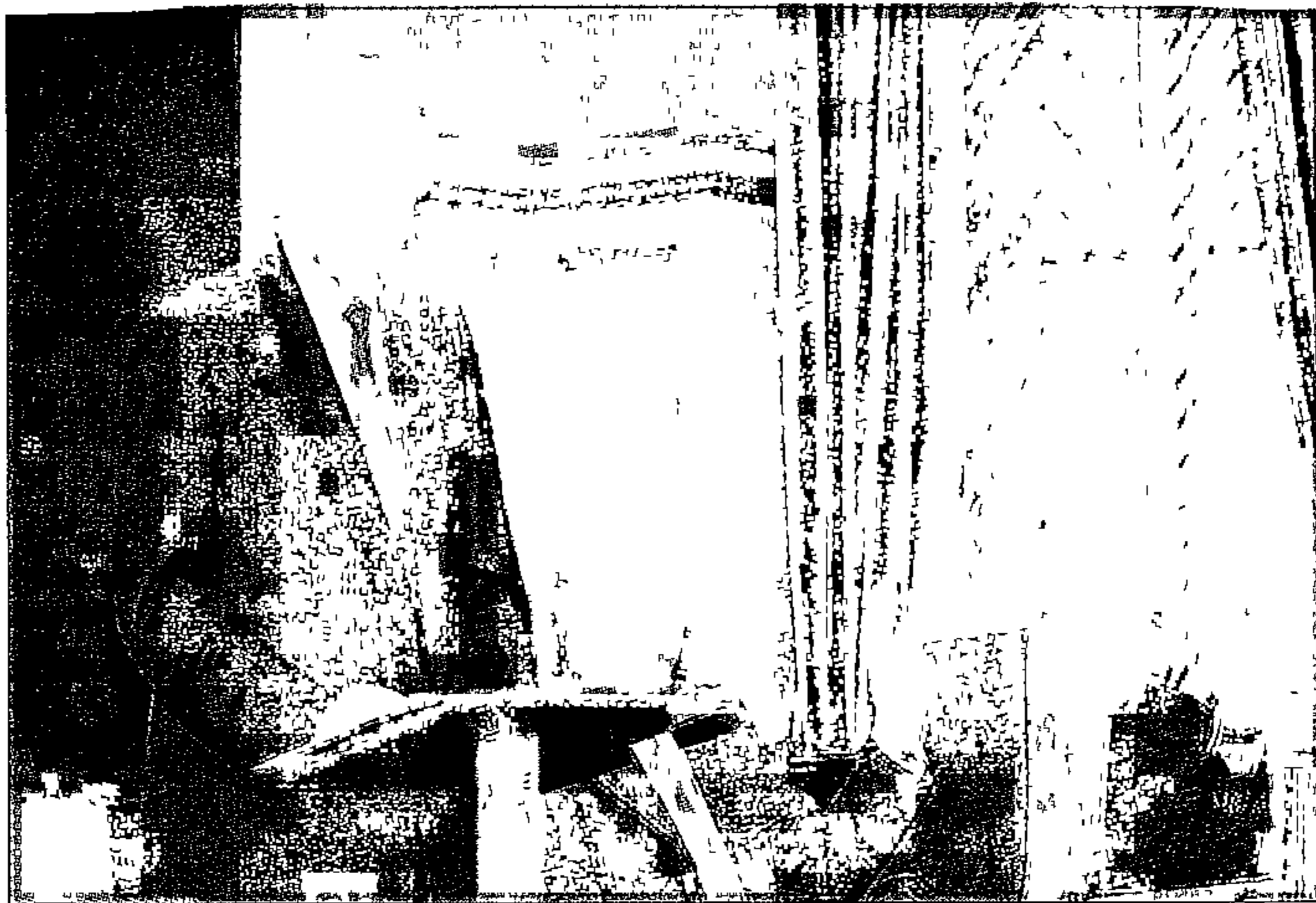
close to an agreement, although there were a few "issues" still to be resolved.

Mr Beaumont said the negotiations had been triggered by Dispatch Media executive chairman Terry Briceland's recent announcement that he planned to retire at the end of the year.

Up for sale is Mr Briceland's 35 percent shareholding in the

company, which delisted from the JSE in 1993 after he and Mr Beaumont, who has an equal holding, staged a management buyout.

(243) ARG 19/9/95
Other minority shareholders include Standard Merchant Bank and TML, which has a 20 percent stake and a seat on the board — Sapa.



POLLING ACTION *Omnimedia chairman Vaughan Bray, standing, and directors Barry Wood, centre, and Doug Band, right, at the group's annual general meeting yesterday*

PHOTO JOHN WOODROOF

Times Media won't cede control to FT

(243)
ET(MR)22/9/95

BY CHARLOTTE MATHEWS

INVESTMENT EDITOR

Discussions between Omnimedia subsidiary Times Media Limited and the Financial Times are continuing, but there is no question of selling the business or surrendering control, Omnimedia chairman Vaughan Bray said yesterday.

He was speaking after Omnimedia's annual general meeting — which was poorly attended by shareholders.

The meeting approved three special and three ordinary resolutions, including the amendment of the description of the company's business in the articles of association and the reduction of the share

premium account to R181,9 million from R481,3 million because the goodwill on the acquisition of shares in TML and CNA Gallo was not easily determinable on an continuing basis.

Questioned on issues relating to Omnimedia, Bray said the discussions with the Financial Times contained the possibility of selling the Financial Mail and Business Day separately, but no decision had been taken.

There would be significant benefits for the group in a strategic alliance with the Financial Times group because it would give Omnimedia access to one of the world's top financial databases.

On discussions with Dispatch

Media, Bray said talks were continuing and TML wanted to acquire the 80 percent of shares which it did not hold.

This would cost R30 million to R40 million. However, there were certain hurdles to overcome, such as the Competition Board.

It has recently been reported that executive chairman Terry Briceland's 35 percent stake in Dispatch Media, which owns East London's Daily Dispatch, has come up for sale because of his pending retirement.

The other shareholders include Alan Beaumont, the managing director of Dispatch Media, who also has 35 percent, and Standard Merchant Bank.

White Press tends to knock blacks

Consultancy head accuses media of maligning emergent black professionals

THE CONTROVERSY STIRRED up by the media over consultant Kenneth Mggamgo's contract to help design a new management structure in Parliament could threaten future prospects of black professionals in South Africa, Mggamgo said yesterday.

Mggamgo and Associates withdrew from the investigation last week after news reports that Mggamgo had a poor

record of delivery in previous projects

"That this type of allegation is meted out without substantial grounds, bodes ill for black professionals and other emerging business people who are still in the process of struggling for economic empowerment in order to

make political liberation a reality," he said in a statement read at the gates of Parliament

Even in the new South Africa, many black people did not feel it was safe to stand up in the Press. Many felt the white-dominated

(243) Sowetan 26/9/95

media chose to focus on black failure and sought to diminish black achievement in a deliberate effort to undermine real change in South Africa

Mggamgo and Associates had always rendered services of a high standard to its clients

Mggamgo said recent Press reports about "chaos" in Parliament implied that the institution had been more efficiently run by whites previously

The Press should appreciate and explain the true dimensions of the challenges Parliament faced

Speaker Dr Frene Ginwala said on Monday that Deloitte and Touche, who took the consultancy contract in partnership with Mggamgo and Associates, had been asked to submit a status report on the investigation Parliament's management team would then examine its options. — *Sapa*

ANC slams 'superficial' media

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL STAFF

THE white-owned media monopolies portrayed the transformation of South Africa in a superficial and one-dimensional way and foreign media ownership was excluding blacks, the ANC said yesterday

It also challenged the Conference of Editors to state its position on media diversity and the ownership of newspaper companies

However, Independent Newspaper Group chief executive Mr John Featherstone said the group was fully committed to the new SA and to media diversity

The ANC statement, issued by Mr Ronnie Mamoepa for its Department of Information and

Publicity, followed the resignation this week of City Press editor Mr Khulu Sibiyi as chairman of the Conference of Editors

Mr Mamoepa said Mr Sibiyi's resignation had highlighted the lack of media diversity in SA

He added the one-dimensional portrayal of political and social transformation by white-owned monopolies had "led to a significant distortion in the free flow of information to the people of SA, particularly around the Reconstruction and Development Programme and the entire transformation process"

The ANC had noted with concern the sale of some media, "in the name of creating diversity", to foreigners

(243) CT 29/9/95
"This seems to be an attempt to keep media resources out of the reach of black South Africans," Mr Mamoepa said

Mr Featherstone said, however, a great deal had been accomplished to create greater diversity, competition and improved standards in South Africa's media in the 18 months since control of his group passed from Johannesburg Consolidated Investments into international hands

Investment

Almost every newspaper in the group had been upgraded, redesigned or relaunched, requiring considerable investment in journalists, equipment, new tech-

niques and retraining
"This group is fully committed to diversity of the South African media, to greater competition, to improved journalistic standards and better newspapers"

He added that the first black editor of a previously major "white" newspaper had been appointed and other appointments would follow. Already a number of blacks occupied senior roles in the group's newspapers

Cape Times editor Mr Moegsen Williams, who is a member of the Board of the International Press Institute, said he hoped the institute would be able to play a role in bringing all editors together to fight for a free press in South Africa

Conference of Editors' head quits

■ BY TARYN LAMBERTI

City Press editor Khulu Sibiya resigned as head of the predominantly-white Conference of Editors yesterday saying he was leaving the organisation because his efforts to unite black and white editors had failed.

Sibiya, who joined the organisation eight years ago in an attempt to bridge the apartheid divide between white and black controlled media in SA, said growing disillusionment had dictated his departure.

"I was hoping that as chairman of the Confer-

ence of Editors I would help create harmony between the Black Editors' Forum and the Conference. but unfortunately I could not succeed.

"I'm very disillusioned about it, I must say it's not what I've always wanted in the future of this country - this country does not need that division again I was hoping that there could be one voice speaking on behalf of the media in this country"

Editor of The Star Peter Sullivan said: "We need an Editors' Forum, not a Conference of Editors, not a Black Editors' Forum. Now that apart-

head is thankfully gone we should try to scrap race altogether as a criterion for membership of any body I will support any move to create a new dispensation"

Natal Mercury editor John Patten said he would be calling a meeting of the Conference of Editors to address the issue next month.

Sunday Times editor Ken Owen said last night that the conference was now destined to disintegrate. "The pity is that the editors have been split by race and I think that a number of people have worked towards that end"

(243) Star 28/9/95

Resignation highlights lack of diversity – ANC

(243) Star 29/9/95

The exclusive dissemination of news by white-owned monopolies had led to a significant distortion in the free flow of information, ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said yesterday.

He was commenting in a statement on the resignation on Wednesday of

City Press editor Khulu Sibiyi as chairman of the Conference of Editors (COE).

Sibiyi's resignation highlighted the lack of media diversity and ownership in South Africa, Mamoepa said.

White-owned media monopolies portrayed the complex processes of political and social transformation of South African society in a superficial and one-dimensional manner.

"This has led to a significant distortion in the free flow of information to the people of South Africa, particularly around the Reconstruction and Development Programme and the entire transformation process.

"This situation has to be radically transformed if we hope to ensure the free and accurate flow of information," he said.

Imbalances in media diversity and ownership had to be redressed. Anti-trust legislation to limit ownership concentrations, and subsidies to encourage diversity in media

ownership had to be examined.

The ANC had noted with concern the sale of some media to foreigners "in the name of creating diversity."

"This seems to be an attempt to keep media resources out of the reach of black South Africans," Mamoepa said.

'This situation has to be radically transformed ... to ensure free and accurate flow of information.'



Khulu Sibiyi ... resigned from Conference of Editors

In his reaction, Black Editors' Forum chairman Thami Mazwai commended Sibiyi "for having soldiered on tirelessly

despite the racism and resistance to change (displayed) by some of his colleagues in their newspapers and even in the COE.

"We are aware that the more progressive white editors in the COE are just as frustrated and it is a matter of time before they also walk out."

Mazwai said he hoped that these

editors and Sibiyi would be part of changes in the media "which will be responsive to our new democracy and actually underpin and reflect its new norms and values."

Mazwai added that there was an initiative by Cape Times editor Moegsien Williams, in his capacity as local chairman of the International Press Institute, to form a new editors' association.

The new body would bring together black and white editors to define their role in the new South Africa, he said – Sapa

Media lagging in the new SA, says Tokyo

■ BY TARYN LAMBERTI

Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale last night lashed out at Independent Newspapers, and accused the mass media of lagging behind in the country's democratic transformation.

"We believe that mass media institutions are lagging behind other sectors in transforming themselves to suit the new South African environment," said Sexwale in a statement

The statement follows a clash between South African newspaper editors after the resignation on Wednesday of City Press editor, Khulu Sibiyana, as chairman of the Conference of Editors. Sibiyana said he was forced to resign because his efforts to unite black and white editors had failed.

Irishman Tony O'Reilly recently acquired 60% of Independent Newspapers

"The fact that a foreign investor is the majority shareholder in a South

African media institution is cause for concern," said Sexwale

He said Deputy-President Thabo Mbeki would head an independent panel to discuss concentration of ownership, and many other aspects of the media, which would later be developed into a communications policy for South Africa

Editor of The Natal Mercury and new chairman of the Conference of Editors, John Patten, said "I would say the members

are generally in favour of empowerment and diversity of media control

"It is true that South African newspapers are in white hands and they control the dissemination of news in a majority black country

"We need to sort this out without damaging freedom of the press," he added

The Conference of Editors is to hold a meeting in Johannesburg on October 9 to discuss Sibiyana's allegations

(243) Stan 29/9/95

Featherstone replies to criticism of the press

'Independent leading the way'

(243) Star 29/9/95

Statement by John Featherstone, chief executive of Independent Newspapers.

In a statement yesterday Ronnie Mamoepa of the ANC attacked the "continued exclusive dissemination of news and information by white-owned monopolies" in South Africa which he says has led to a distortion in the free flow of information. Insofar as that relates to Independent Newspapers, we believe that a great deal has been accomplished to create greater diversity, competition and improved standards in South Africa's media in the 18 months since control passed from JCI into international hands.

These include

■ The Sowetan, easily South Africa's largest-selling daily newspaper, is now controlled by black interests, with Independent only a minority shareholder. Independent's management has helped it to grow towards its target of becoming South Africa's first national newspaper - the Sowetan will shortly be printed and distributed by Independent Newspapers in KwaZulu-Natal, and it is already being marketed in Cape Town.

■ New Nation has joined the Sowetan stable, and with Independent's help and support has been redesigned, repackaged and relaunched. Its independent voice has been preserved in the process.

■ The new owners appointed the first black editor of a major previously "white" newspaper in Moegsien Williams, first to The Pretoria News and now to the Cape Times. Others will follow. Already a number of blacks occupy senior roles on the group's newspapers for instance on The Star,

Arthur Maimane is the day editor, Sol Makgabutlane is the news editor and Kaizer Nyatumba is the political editor. All of them are recent appointments.

■ Independent Newspapers, uniquely among South African media groups, has created an international advisory board consisting of a group of eminent world figures, all of them with strong independent voices, all of them committed to the changes which have taken place in this country. The Independent International Advisory Board, which met in Cape Town in June for the first time, is chaired by Ben Bradlee, the former editor of The Washington Post and among the most eminent newspapermen in the world, it also includes David Dinkins, the first black mayor of New York, Andrew Young, former US ambassador to the UN (and a former mayor of Atlanta), and the distinguished British journalist and author Anthony Sampson, former editor of Drum. The board also includes four leading South African figures: Eric Molobi, chief executive of Kagiso Trust, Zwelakhe Sisulu, group chief executive of the SABC, Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu and Dr Nthato Motlana. All of these have a strong interest in ensuring a diversified and independent media in South Africa and in the free flow of information to the people of this country.

■ Independent Newspapers operates the only school of journalism in South Africa, which has produced many of the leading black journalists over the

years, including many members of the Black Editors Forum. Graduates of the school include Thami Mazwai, editor of Enterprise magazine, Sol Makgabutlane of The Star, Mike Siluma of the Sowetan, Tyrone August and many others. Between 1985 and 1995 some 113 black journalists have graduated from the school and now occupy various senior positions in the media. In the past year the number of trainees going through the course has been doubled to more than 25, most of them black. This number is in excess of the number our newspapers can accommodate, which means the Independent School of Journalism is now training journalists for the benefit of the whole media industry. We are happy to do that - and indeed plan to extend our commitment in this area, not just at trainee level but at all levels in the organisation.

'This group is fully committed to diversity of the South African media, to greater competition, to improved journalistic standards and better newspapers. It is also fully committed to all the new SA stands for.'

■ In the past year, 3 084 Independent Newspapers staff have undergone training of some kind, which is more than half the total staff. This is a huge improvement on the past.

In addition, Independent Newspapers has launched a number of new and innovative products into a market which had been pretty devoid of competition in recent years. These include:

1 Business Report, an international quality business and finance section which circulates almost nationwide, and will soon have a circulation of nearly 300 000 through its four carrier papers: The Star, The Pretoria News, Cape Times and The Mercury. This has

created more than 20 new journalist jobs, represents a heavy expenditure and commitment on the part of the group, and already has a readership of 464 000 readers, nearly five times that of Business Day. Most important of all, Business Report has created a new "rainbow" readership of multi-ethnic, young and educated people, a quarter of whom had never previously read business pages. This is vitally important for the future of emerging business in South Africa.

2 The Sunday Independent, the first all-new newspaper of the new South Africa, indeed the first new paper launched in this country for some years. It is a high-quality, international-class paper which fills a major gap in the South African market. It is now printed in Cape Town as well as Johannesburg and is distributed across the country.

3 Sunday Life: The first magazine of its kind launched in South Africa. Again, like Business Report and The Sunday Independent, it brings a new quality of writing and journalism to the South African media.

In the past nine months there have been a series of other achievements. The redesign and relaunch of a greatly upgraded Cape Times, containing Business Report.

The redesign and relaunch of a greatly upgraded Mercury, containing

Business Report. The redesign and relaunch of The Saturday Star.

The redesign and relaunch of the Diamond Fields Advertiser.

The redesign and relaunch - as of October 1 - of The Pretoria News.

The launch of The SA Star and Times in the UK, the first investment by a South African media company in newspapers outside these shores.

An investment of R50-million in state-of-the-art electronic technology to bring the papers up to the best standards anywhere in the world. The upcoming redesign and relaunch of The Star.

The fact is that in the past year almost every paper owned by the group has been upgraded, redesigned or relaunched. This has needed considerable investment in new journalists, new equipment, new techniques and a major programme of retraining - and Independent Newspapers has been happy to lead the way for South Africa in making it intend to go on making it.

This group is fully committed to diversity of the South African media, to greater competition, to improved journalistic standards and better newspapers. It is also fully committed to all the new South Africa stands for, and will do everything it can to ensure a free and accurate flow of information, not only in the transition period, but for many years beyond.



John Featherstone ... a great deal accomplished

techniques and a major programme of retraining - and Independent Newspapers has been happy to lead the way for South Africa in making it intend to go on making it.

This group is fully committed to diversity of the South African media, to greater competition, to improved journalistic standards and better newspapers. It is also fully committed to all the new South Africa stands for, and will do everything it can to ensure a free and accurate flow of information, not only in the transition period, but for many years beyond.

The redesign and relaunch of a greatly upgraded Cape Times, containing Business Report.

The redesign and relaunch of a greatly upgraded Mercury, containing

Editor sparks off media row

By CHARLES MOGALE,
SAPA and ECNA

CITY PRESS editor Khulu Sibiyá's resignation as chairman of the Conference of Editors this week sparked off an outcry about media ownership in the country.

Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale expressed concern at the "lagging behind" of the mass media in regard to the new changes in the country. It was also cause for concern that Irishman Tony O'Reilly had acquired a majority shareholding (60 percent) in the local *Independent* newspaper, Sexwale said.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki will soon head a panel to investigate the concentration of ownership of the media.

Sibiyá said his attempts to unite black editors and their white counterparts had failed.

He said he would not be joining the rival Black Editors Forum, which has been calling on the government to intervene to minimise white control of the media.

"I am retiring to the sidelines at the moment, with the hope that a new body, which does not have any racial connotations, will be formed soon," he said.

ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said Sibiyá's resignation highlighted the lack of media diversity and ownership in South Africa.

The ANC had noted with concern the sale of some newspapers "in the name of creating diversity" to foreigners.

"This seems to be an attempt to keep media resources out of the reach of black South Africans," Mamoepa said.

Black Editors Forum chairman Thami Mazwai said: "We are aware that the more progressive white editors in the Conference of Editors are also frustrated. It is a matter of time before they also resign."

He added that there was an initiative by Cape Times editor Mogens Williams, in his capacity as local chairman of the International Press Institute, to form a new editors' association, which will bring black and white editors together to define their role in the new South Africa.

Sibiyá said in his resignation letter that some of his white colleagues had taken "fixed" positions on questions of media diversity and ownership, which were "a source of embarrassment to me as their chairman, even though they do not speak on behalf of the Conference of Editors, but in their capacity as editors of their

various publications".

The *Independent's* chief executive John Featherstone disputed claims that his group had not introduced changes in the spirit of the new climate in the country.

He said his group had reduced its control of the *Sowetan*, rendering it black-controlled, and had assisted *New Nation* to join the *Sowetan* stable while preserving its "independent voice".

At *The Star*, the *Independent's* flagship publication, blacks held senior positions and the *Independent's* school of journalism had over a period of 10 years produced 113 black graduates.

■ The row about media diversity intensified on Friday, when the ANC reacted angrily to accusations that it was gunning for control of the media.

Recent attempts to portray its views on the issue as a wish to control the media were a gross misrepresentation of its intentions, the ANC said in a statement.

"The unfounded accusation that the ANC is itching to control the media is a deliberate misrepresentation designed to deflect attention from the white capitalist monopoly over South Africa's print media," it said.

ANC 'threat to press'

(243)

JOHANNESBURG: There is a carefully orchestrated campaign by the ANC to scupper press freedom, Democratic Party leader Mr Tony Leon said yesterday.

ET 6/10/95

Speaking at an election rally here, Mr Leon said the onslaught against a free press would end existing and future foreign investment in the country.

He said the campaign started when Deputy President Thabo Mbeki chose the Black Editors' Forum to launch "a scathing, racially motivated attack" on the "white-owned, white-edited and largely white-written" press of SA.

"Subordinating press freedom to the dictates of so-called 'black empowerment' has nothing to do with mass community upliftment and everything to do with muzzling the growth of a vibrant and critical media culture," Mr Leon said. — Sapa

NEWS

New curb on media criticised

BY LEE-ANN ALFREDS

Most of the media have been caught unawares by new legislation which bans newspapers from publishing photographs of people in police custody. The police also seem to have been unaware that the legislation has been passed by Parliament and will become law at the end of October.

Section 69 of the South African Police Service Bill which replaces Section 27 of the old Police Act of 1928 appears to have caught media organisations and police alike unawares, but was criticised as a step backward by The Star's lawyers and the Freedom of Expression Institute after they examined the clauses.

Malcolm Fried of Webber Wentzel Bowens, The Star's lawyers, said that while one section of the new legislation, 2a, allowed the press greater freedom, clause 3 of the Act showed "no progress at all". According to Fried, section 2a will allow photographers to take photos of anybody in custody unless a policeman prevents

PICTURES of people in police custody may no longer be published, according to new legislation

them from doing so

Newspapers who publish a photograph when they have been forbidden to do so by a policeman may be prosecuted and the offender may face up to one year in jail or a fine. The old legislation stated that newspapers were not allowed to publish photographs of anyone in custody

In terms of section 3 of the new legislation, newspapers cannot publish the photograph of a suspect who is fleeing, or anybody in custody who is being tried, or anyone in custody involved in criminal proceedings without the written permission of the national or provincial police commissioner. Contravention of this clause may also result in imprisonment or a fine.

So far, newspapers were only banned from publishing photographs of people who had escaped from police custody and people who had not been brought to trial

"Section 3 is awful. It does not represent progress at all, but takes several steps backwards

"It could mean that newspapers will have to wait till after sentencing to publish a picture or maybe even longer if the case goes to the appeal court. This could take years," Fried said

He said that the section could also lead to an anomalous situation where a newspaper was held liable for publishing a picture of a fleeing suspect without being aware that they had transgressed the law at all.

Freedom of Expression Institute chairman Raymond Louw said both sections were unacceptable and that his organisation would contest them in the Constitutional Court.

He said it was absolutely and totally unacceptable that any police officer could forbid the tak-

ing of photographs "no matter what the circumstances" or that a police commissioner could forbid the taking of photographs of people in prison

"There is no call for such restrictions to creep in in the new South Africa. It is in contravention of the constitution and we will fight it," Louw said.

However, SAPS Witwatersrand head of the Community Relations Division in Gauteng, Brigadier Dirk Gous, gave an undertaking at the weekend that the police would not abuse the new legislation. "If applied strictly, there will be considerable administrative problems. But we are not going to be itchy and stitchy about it," he said.

Gous said the legislation had come about as a result of "ministerial decision-making" that had only been conveyed to police about two weeks ago.

He said it had been passed in Parliament and was expected to become law at the end of the month when it was published in the Government Gazette.

(243) Nov 9/10/95

SAUJ gets new acting president

Sunday Tribune political reporter Sam Sole has been appointed acting president of the South African Union of Journalists.

Sole (33) was co-opted as acting president by the union's national executive committee, the SAUJ said yesterday.

He takes over from former South African Press Association reporter, Connie Molusi, who resigned last month to join the Government's reconstruction and development office. -

Sapa

(243)
Star 10/10/95

Move towards one SA press organisation

(243)
JOHANNESBURG. The Conference of Editors and the Black Editors' Forum met yesterday, and will meet again next month, in a move to establish a single organisation for the press

Yesterday's meeting follows City Press editor Mr Khulu Sibiyi's resignation as chairman of the predominantly white conference two weeks ago. Mr Sibiyi, who joined the organisation eight years ago with the hope of unifying white and black press, cited 'disillusionment as the reason for his resignation.

CT 10/10/95
The brief preliminary meeting to discuss the creation of a unified press body was facilitated by Cape Times editor and International Press Institute member Mr Moegsien Williams.

"We are concerned that divisiveness will damage our profession and the country. We believe a single body will be supported by most journalists," he said afterwards. — Special Correspondent

IFP's hardline strategy will deepen tension, warns ANC

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — The strain within the KwaZulu-Natal government would deepen if the IFP failed to reverse the hardline strategy it adopted in the legislature session which ended on Monday this week, ANC provincial chairman Jacob Zuma warned yesterday.

Zuma said the IFP should realise that it had a mere one-member majority in the provincial legislature, and that it could not govern without the co-operation of the other parties.

"The next six months are crucial for the IFP to mend its ways. If it does not, it will be under perpetual pressure," Zuma said.

The IFP has 81 MPs in the legislature, which is including the speaker. The six opposition parties have a total of 40 of which the ANC has 26.

Premier Frank Mdlalose's spokesman, Thembinkosi Mem-

ela, said that an "ordinary" cabinet meeting was held yesterday — the first since the legislature crisis started.

Confirming that no "heavy stuff" was discussed in the meeting, Zuma said: "I think everybody wanted to cool off."

Memela said the cabinet had met a delegation from one of the German states. Investment and tourism were discussed.

Zuma said he still got along "very well" with Mdlalose.

"I sympathise with him. He ought to be a father figure but his party is forcing him to behave as though he is only an IFP premier," Zuma said.

He warned the IFP not to introduce further legislation intended to challenge central government — including Bills to re-enact the Ingonyama Trust Act and an Electoral Act — at the legislature session scheduled for next month.

Zuma said that if the IFP did

so, the ANC would respond in the same fashion it had done in the session which ended on Monday

Zuma said there was no prospect of the ANC pulling out of the unity government as it was one of the "cornerstones" of ANC policy for the transition period.

But the ANC would introduce a motion of no-confidence in the IFP if it continued using "bullying tactics". The IFP should also stop behaving as though it was "still running a one-party homeland".

"If they can't govern the province, the province must be taken out of their hands. It is our duty to defend democracy in the province," Zuma said.

He said the ANC caucus was to discuss the conduct of speaker Gideon Mdlalose who reversed an earlier ruling he made and allowed debate to take place on Bills intended to prevent traditional leaders from accepting remuneration from central government

Niehaus attacks whites' dominance of the Press

Tim Cohen

CAPE TOWN — White and foreign dominance of the SA Press was sharply criticised yesterday by the ANC.

ANC NEC member Carl Niehaus told a news briefing the SA Press was not reflecting the country's full diversity of voices.

The ANC said in a statement released at the briefing: "Without fundamental change in the patterns of ownership and control of the media, the sale of large sections of the print media industry to foreign interests can only further disempower South Africans."

The Press had been slow in responding to the far-reaching changes that SA was undergoing and most newsrooms remained predominantly white.

"Consequently most mainstream newspapers have white editors who are often perceived to be some of the strongest opponents of the democratic majority government."

The statement singled out Star editor Peter Sullivan, accusing him of trying to stifle opposition within his own staff.

The statement appended an internal memorandum signed by Sullivan which said the Star "must speak with one voice" on the issue of foreign ownership and the racial make-up of the Press because of the topic's "sensitivity".

"The Press is one issue which requires experience and strategic formulation."

It is understood the memorandum was issued in response to an article written by one of the newspaper's black reporters critical of the approach adopted by the Star during the ongoing debate. The article was not published.

The ANC said in the light of Sullivan's instructions to his staff, his professed commitment to Press freedom rang hollow.

In response, Sullivan was quoted in yesterday's Star as saying that the attack was mystifying as he had taken every opportunity to stress that he believed the ANC was fully committed to Press freedom and that he was committed to Press diversity.

Niehaus denied that his organisation was "soft" on crime.

Commenting on the decline in the safety and security budget, Niehaus said the ANC would have liked to have seen more spent directly on crime prevention.

But the ANC had a holistic approach to the problem which included a socioeconomic component and therefore required expenditure in other areas as well.

He said the ANC was concerned about "negative messages" on the local government election, particularly statements made recently by local government election task force co-chairman Van Zyl Slabbert. Despite hitches, the election was going to take place in most areas of the country and a positive message about the elections ought to be expressed, Niehaus said.

R140m for Soweto roads

Mduduzi ka Harvey

THE greater Johannesburg transitional metropolitan council has allocated more than R140m from its budget in the current financial year to implement 30 road projects in Soweto.

Launching the RDP/Masakhane roads project in Orlando East yesterday, Johannesburg mayor Isaac Mogase said the greater Johannesburg council would ensure service delivery, but delivery had to be supported by the community.

The projects, he said, were a way of encouraging the community to support both Masakhane and the RDP.

The best structure to deliver to the communities was local government. But the best service delivery would require the best service payment in return, Mogase said.

Soweto mayor Danny Kekana echoed his sentiments, saying that residents should pay for services, because without funds there could be no service delivery.

Soweto Civic Association spokesman Pule Buthelezi encouraged residents to support the campaign. For local government to be successful, he said, it had to be people-driven.

Johannesburg council RDP unit head John Singh said that community involvement would be the project's main thrust.

The aim was to implement a philosophy of empowering communities, by promoting joint ventures between local and conventional contractors.

ANC accuses editor of gagging staff

Star 12/10/95 (243)

BY PATRICK BULGER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — The ANC yesterday lashed out at the editor of The Star, Peter Sullivan, accusing him of trying to stifle opposition voices on his own newspaper.

The ANC attack, made in the form of a statement released by ANC MP Carl Niehaus at a briefing in Cape Town, is a follow-up to recent ANC criticism of

the media, especially the ownership of Independent Newspapers by a foreign company.

The ANC statement included a directive issued by Sullivan on October 5 in which he urged staff at The Star to speak "with one voice" on press issues because of their "sensitivity".

The ANC alleged that Sullivan had issued the directive in response to an article by one of The

Star's black reporters.

The organisation also alleged that while Sullivan "and some other editors" of the "white-dominated" monopoly press had accused the ANC of trying to curb press freedom, the ANC was "astonished to learn that Mr Sullivan saw it fit to issue a curbing their right to write articles in accordance with how they see the current situation in

the South African media".

The ANC alleged that "the press in South Africa has generally been slow in responding to far-reaching changes that our country is currently undergoing.

"It is ironic that the media, which is expected to mirror the transformation process in our country has in this regard lagged behind many sectors of our society in reflecting change," the

statement said.

Asked to comment, Sullivan said: "I have never accused the ANC of trying to curb press freedom, far from it. I have taken every opportunity to stress both here and abroad my belief that the ANC is fully committed to freedom of the press, so this attack mystifies me. I note the ANC uses this statement to stress that it speaks with one voice, while damning

me for insisting that, on matters relating to our industry, The Star does the same.

"Let me emphasise again my commitment to diversity in the press and in media, and remind the ANC that I was instrumental in founding the organisation, prior to elections, to encourage diversity. I continue to believe that international investment is encouraged by the ANC leadership."

Nasionale Pers restructuring

BD 13/10/95 (243)

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — Nasionale Pers (Naspers) would be restructured to allow the 50% interest held in it by Nasionale Pers Beherend to also be traded directly on the JSE, the diversified media group said yesterday.

Executive chairman Ton Vosloo said the proposed steps had already been provisionally approved by the JSE, and the restructuring was expected to be completed early in December.

Beherend was established when Naspers was listed in September 1994 to retain control of the company.

In terms of the restructuring, which shareholders would be asked to approve at a special meeting on November 10, Naspers would convert its existing ordinary shares into "N" ordi-

nary shares, with the same rights.

A new class of share known as "A" ordinary shares would be created, but these would not be eligible for a dividend of more than 20% of that paid in respect of "N" shares.

The "A" shares not taken up by Beherend would be placed in subsidiary Nasionale Pers Beleggings.

Shareholding of Beleggings would change via issue of new shares, leaving Beherend with 51% and Naspers 49%.

Beherend would then go into voluntary liquidation, distributing its assets by way of a liquidation dividend.

The effect of the proposal was that Beherend shareholders — after liquidation — would, for every 100 shares held in Beherend, retain 100 "N" ordinary shares in Naspers plus one ordinary share in Beleggings.

Naspers to 'unlock' value in Beherend

■ BY AUDREY D'ANGELO

(243) Star 13/10/95

A restructuring of Nasionale Pers is aimed at unlocking value in Nasionale Pers Beherend, the existence of which is now unnecessary, the executive chairman, Ton Vosloo, announced yesterday.

He said that when Nasionale Pers was listed in September, Beherend was created to ensure control of the company. For each original share they held, shareholders were allocated five in the listed company and five in Beherend.

"However, the tender system for the trading of shares in Beherend has proved inefficient, and shares have started to trade at a discount, to shareholders' disadvantage."

The change in stock ex-

change rules allowed other control mechanisms, Vosloo said.

The restructuring, which shareholders will be asked to approve on November 10, will create N ordinary shares with the same rights as the present ones, and A shares, each with 1 000 votes but which will never be eligible for more than 20 per cent of the N-share dividend.

There will then be a capitalisation issue on the basis of one share for each 100 held, offering a choice between A and N shares. Beherend will then go into voluntary liquidation, distributing its assets, its stake in Beleggings and 55,7 million N shares in Naspers, to shareholders as a liquidation dividend. Shareholders will receive 100 shares in Naspers and one in Beleggings for each 100 shares in Beherend.

Naspers to liquidate Beherend

(243)

BY AUDREY D'ANGELO

CT (BR) 13/10/95 CARE BUSINESS EDITOR

A restructuring of the Nasionale Pers group is aimed at unlocking value in Nasionale Pers Beherend, the existence of which is now unnecessary, the executive chairman, Ton Vosloo, announced yesterday

He said that when Nasionale Pers was listed in September, Beherend was created as a mechanism to ensure control of the company. For each original share they held, shareholders were allocated five in the listed company and five in Beherend

"However, the tender system being used for the trading of shares in Beherend has proved to be an inefficient instrument, and shares have started to trade at a discount, to the disadvantage of shareholders

"In the meantime, the Stock Exchange regulations were changed in such a way that other control mechanisms could be implemented," said Vosloo

Rights

The restructuring, which shareholders will be asked to approve at a special meeting on November 10, involves the creation of N ordinary shares with the same rights as the present ones, and A shares, each of which will have 1 000 votes but which will never be eligible for more than 20 percent of the dividend paid to N shares

There will then be a capitalisation issue on the basis of one share for each 100 held, with shareholders able to choose between A and N shares. Beherend will then go into voluntary liquidation, distributing its assets, its stake in Beleggings and 55,7 million N shares in Naspers, to shareholders as a liquidation dividend. As a result, shareholders will receive 100 shares in Naspers and one in Beleggings for each 100 shares in Beherend.

Pallo Jordan speaks on Press owners

PATRICK BULGER

Political Staff

(243)

ARG 14/10/95

THE ANC did not believe that limits should be placed on foreign ownership of the South African Press, an ANC Cabinet minister and member of the national executive said yesterday.

The ANC was concerned, however, that foreign investment in the South African media did not necessarily contribute to the diversity of ownership and expression it supported.

Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting Minister Pallo Jordan told a media briefing on the state of the government that the ANC did not have "an in-principle opposition to foreign ownership of the South African Press". Dr Jordan was responding to questions about the ANC's stance on the sale of the Argus Newspaper titles, including The Star, to Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers.

His comments appear to soften the stance taken in a statement issued by ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa on behalf of the ANC's NEC at the end of last month. Mr Mamoepa said the sale of South African media interests "seems to be an attempt to keep media resources out of the reach of black South Africans".

Mr Mamoepa's statement was contested by the editor of The Star, Peter Sullivan, who told an Agenda/Newsline debate this week that Mr Mamoepa's views did not reflect the views of the ANC leadership on the issue.

The ANC, in response to Mr Sullivan's comments, issued a subsequent statement which accused Mr Sullivan of trying to gag reporters on The Star by not publishing articles which opposed his (Mr Sullivan's) view on the matter.

The ANC also took the extraordinary step of issuing with its statement an in-house memorandum from Mr Sullivan to his staff in which he said "there are some issues on which, because of their sensitivity, The Star as a newspaper must speak with one voice".

Dr Jordan said "I do not think there should be limits on foreign ownership of the Press. The issue has been ownership, access and control of the mass media in general. Everyone agrees that the issue of foreign ownership has to be seen in that context."

Asked on whose behalf he was speaking, Dr Jordan replied: "I do not think the ANC has a position in opposition to foreign ownership of the Press."

He added: "If one says we require greater diversity in ownership and then we sell off half the Press to the New York Times so that now you have diversity because you have South African and American ownership, that is not really the answer."

He said everybody agreed that the ownership of the South Africa media was "skewed".

TML to purchase Dispatch Media

(243) 6T 15/10/95

Sunday Times Reporter

THE Competition Board has given the go-ahead for Times Media Limited to purchase Dispatch Media, publisher of East London's Daily Dispatch.

The Competition Board chairman, Dr Pierre Brooks, this week told TML that the board did not consider it necessary to undertake a formal investigation of the deal

Dr Brooks said it had been noted that the editorial independence of the Daily Dispatch would not be affected and that TML was committed to expanding its shareholder base.

TML's managing director, Roy Paulson, said TML intended selling a percentage of the shareholding of Dispatch Media to a Port Elizabeth-based consortium of black entrepreneurs.

He said TML owned 20 percent of Dispatch Media, Standard Corporate Merchant Bank 10 percent and the balance of shares was held by Dispatch Media directors Terry Briceland and Alan Beaumont

Mr Paulson said the opportunity to acquire the shareholding had arisen when Mr Briceland, due to turn 65 years of age, had announced his wish to retire and sell his shares.

For the past six months, TML has been discussing a partnership with the PE consortium.

"We would not sell the control but would be quite happy to sell a fair percentage," said Mr Paulson. He said the size of the consortium's shareholding had not yet been established.

Dispatch Media, said Mr Paulson, was "a very good little group, highly efficient and they make good profits" He foresaw no major changes

Dispatch Media director, Mr Beaumont, said negotiations on the sale would proceed

"We will try to conclude negotiations within the next few weeks," said Mr Beaumont

TML set to cut first major black empowerment deal

Amanda Vermeulen
and Adrienne Gillomee

TIMES Media Limited (TML) is poised to cut its first major black empowerment deal, with two potential agreements centred on its newspaper interests in the Eastern Cape.

MD Roy Paulson said yesterday that the group — which publishes Business Day — was in talks with a Port Elizabeth-based black business consortium to sell a slice of its Eastern Province Newspapers (EPN) division. The company had also been contacted by an East London-based consortium about a deal involving Dispatch Media.

TML received the Competition Board go-ahead on Friday to take sole control of Dispatch Media, publisher of the Daily Dispatch.

Paulson declined to name the parties, though he said the Port Elizabeth group had strong financial backing.

The EPN division publishes the Eastern Province Herald, the Evening

Post, Weekend Post and the Eastern Cape edition of the Sunday Times.

Paulson said the other consortium had contacted Dispatch Media executive chairman Terry Briceland before TML's bid went in.

Briceland holds 35% of Dispatch Media and plans to retire, but TML has pre-emptive rights over his shares. The consortium contacted Paulson once TML unveiled its plans.

"I said we'd be happy to talk to them, once the deal had gone through," Paulson said.

Competition Board chairman Pierre Brooks told Paulson on Friday that he had decided against a formal investigation into the Dispatch deal, provided the Daily Dispatch's editorial independence was not compromised by the takeover. Brooks said the decision was subject to no new information arising that could affect the ruling.

TML would also have to be committed

(243) BD 16/10/95
Continued on Page 2

TML BD 16/10/95

(243)

Continued from Page 1

ted to expanding its shareholder base to include disadvantaged sections of the community.

Under the deal, TML will buy 80% of Dispatch Media from Briceland and MD Alan Beaumont, and from 10% stakeholder Standard Merchant Bank. No cash figures have been released for

the deal, although market estimates put the value at about R35m. TML already owns 20% of Dispatch.

Paulson said TML was also interested in buying Enterprise magazine, although no new talks had taken place since exploratory discussions in 1993.

Enterprise editor Thami Mazwai, a vociferous critic of white-owned publishing groups, said a linkup with one of the large publishing groups would give the magazine access to skills and resources it could not currently afford.

MONDAY
OCTOBER 16, 1995

Cape Times editor calls for change in media industry

(243) CT 16/10/95
STAFF REPORTER

DEEP-ROOTED change in the media industry was necessary, Cape Times editor Mr Moegsien Williams said at the Western Cape congress of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa) yesterday.

It would be ridiculous to pretend that we have "years and years" to deliver that change, he added.

He said the extent of changes in the industry "will not depend on people like me in positions of authority".

"It depends on us all."

He said media workers had a responsibility to provide the information necessary to make democracy meaningful.

"Our fellow citizens want as much information as possible — information

which is reliable, truthful and tuned to the real needs of society.

"They want us to ensure that no more will our people be mere receivers of news from those who sometimes live in another world — those who do not yet see the need to share in the pain and joy of making the RDP work."

He also said media workers needed to "get our own house in order".

"We cannot hope to be taken seriously if we are fighting among ourselves, if we are divided as union members, and as unions."

He urged Mwasa to unite everyone in the industry "so that together we can build a new way of doing things — so that we can get rid of the discrimination that persists despite the ending of apartheid."

Be more positive, BBC man urges SA journalists

SOUTH AFRICAN journalists have a responsibility to present a more positive image of changes in society, says BBC news reader Martyn Lewis.

Lewis triggered heated debate in Britain last year when he suggested that reporters habitually took too negative a view of society. He urged the South African media to record successes as well as failures.

"Journalists (have) a responsibility to present a more accurate mirror image of the overall balance of events and issues shaping the society in which we live," he told the Cape Town Press Club yesterday.

"It is a responsibility that is particularly great in societies wrestling with sudden and often awesome change. Here in South Africa, it will condition, perhaps even decide, the future of democracy itself," he said.

He is in South Africa to conduct interviews for a book he is writing on achievers and the secrets of their success. He said he did not believe news

bulletins should have an artificial balance between good and bad news.

"When we come to decide the editorial priorities for each day's news, we should be more prepared than we have been in the past to weigh the positive stories — on the same set of journalistic scales on which we weigh negative stories.

"And, those are criteria which will allow us not only to expose the injustices and the tragedies of the world, but also to give proper weight to the successes and triumphs," said Lewis. (243) ARG 18/10/95

He said afterwards he had delivered a similar message in meetings with journalists in Johannesburg, but had not been in contact with government or party officials.

The media have been under increasing pressure from the African National Congress to focus on the successes rather than failures of the transition from white rule to democracy. — Reuter.

Freedom of the press is vital - ANC

(243)

The ANC would always resist attempts to undermine the independence and integrity of South Africa's media, it said in a statement ahead of World Press Day today.

The ANC commemorated the World and Weekend World's forced closure on October 19 1977 when the former government detained the editors and also banned the Union of Black Journalists

"Never again should the State be empowered to flagrantly violate people's rights to information and alternative views. Never again can we allow a government to suppress the freedom of the media."

A free flow of ideas was central to a democratic society, it said - Sapa

Star 19/10/95

Atomic corporation loses right to gag SABC

25/10/95 (243) (25)

PRETORIA In a ruling that has implications for press freedom the television series, Die Laksman, has been granted a reprieve and will again be broadcast tonight on TV1

This follows Mr Justice C F Eloff's dismissal of an application by the Atomic

Energy Corporation (AEC) yesterday to stop further broadcasting of the series

AEC chief executive Dr Waldo Stumpf said in court documents the series put the AEC in a bad light

The broadcaster said the relief sought by the AEC violated the consti-

tutional guarantee of freedom of expression

Justice Eloff said the AEC and Stumpf's application failed because their integrity, as well as that of the relevant government minister were never under threat — Sapa

Journalists would lose deposits in

(243) Star 21/10/95

Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale has warned the media not to get left behind in the tide of change sweeping through South Africa. This is an edited version of a speech he delivered this week at the Sowetan Press Freedom Day seminar in Johannesburg.

It is now 17 months since the April 1994 elections that ushered in a new era in South Africa - the era of democracy, a democracy based on constitutionality. Constitutionality underpinned by the rule of law, with a legal system that safeguards all the democratic rights of our citizens as enshrined in the Bill of Rights. In short, we have experienced a new dawn - a dawn heralded by the new rainbow nation, a nation whose conscience, for the first time, has been unchained to utilise to the full its intellectual capacities, unchained to think freely, to speak freely, to articulate and to write freely, where the media in general has been freed to continue to remain the focal point of the nation's conscience.

Our successes have not been achieved without social hiccups, manifest problems, a crisis here and there. But then that is the nature of a fundamental social transformation.

But of all the associated problems around our numerous successes that enabled us as a new nation to come this far, we can, on this 18th anniversary of Press Freedom Day, proclaim thus.

■ Whereas in the past, journalists were detained, tortured and imprisoned, today this is no longer so.

■ Whereas under the previous system, journalists were murdered in the line of duty, this is no longer the case.

■ And, whereas the previous regime banned and silenced publications, such as happened on that fateful day on October 19 1977, today publishers and media workers enjoy constitutional protection in the course of their duties.

Having said that, it must be pointed out that the need has arisen for the media to examine its role in the changing socio-economic status quo in South Africa.

However, it would be a folly to contemplate that such an analysis can be conducted from the bylines as spectators. The media

is a critical, material, component of the environment which it seeks out to report on, or to analyse. The challenge is to abstract yourself from the environment in which you exist, and to consequently make the correct analysis of that environment.

Our observation points to the fact that not many in the media have been able to live up to that challenge - in concrete terms, the challenge of understanding the new and rapidly changing South African story.

The story of millions of Mandela's children, who in the past were sure victims of child mortality, but who today enjoy the benefit of free milk and bread at

Nevertheless, the rainbow of our nation instructs us that all is not gloom. There are many exceptions within the media industry; there are products out there, such as The Sunday Independent, which make a vital, independent contribution to intelligent thought in our country. We also have some fine documentaries in radio and television

primary school to prepare a solid foundation for better matric results; the story of opening the doors of learning to all and sundry, with no consideration for colour or class, the story of free health care for mothers and kids who used to die in the scorching sun or the winter chill; the story of the tears of joy as kinsfolk retrace their footsteps to ancestral lands.

In a word, the story which is encapsulated in a positive growth rate in a country which experienced negative growth for more than 10 years. Are we sure we all understand this story from the same point of view? Or are we sitting on different sides of the fire, where we see a country that does not work, a country that slides into chaos, where cynicism has overtaken the intellect in a country where seemingly nothing works?

For those of us who slave away at the rock-face of change,

sometimes when we read such cynicism we wonder if people are writing about the same country in which we live, the same country in which we work, the same country which we are working so hard to change.

Millions of our countrymen seem to share our view. Sadly to note, in all honesty, the popularity ratings of some of South Africa's mass media is at a record low - not only among political parties but also among the ordinary people. It is our estimation that if an election was held tomorrow for South Africa's journalists, most of you would lose your deposits.

This is evident in the falling circulations of many newspapers. It is evident in the declining listenerships on many radio stations, and in the "missing million" TV viewers who have stopped watching what SABC produces. Some call it the Big Yawn; others the Big Turn-Off.

In cancelling their subscriptions and switching off, the people of South Africa are sending a crucial message to our mass media owners and those who work in the mass media, a message which the media shall ignore at its peril.

Consequently, it is true that journalists live or die by the support of their followers. Publications thrive or wither upon the altar of their critical readers.

Nevertheless, the rainbow of our nation instructs us that not all is gloom. There are many exceptions within the media industry; there are excellent products out there, such as *The Sunday Independent*, which make a vital, independent contribution to intelligent thought in our country. We also experience some fine documentary programmes on radio and TV, both by black and white journalists, particularly those on NNTV. And it is no coincidence that the readership and viewership of these products continue to increase.

There are also, in our view, numerous quality journalists who write, record and film in newsrooms in various parts of the country - people who carry forth the tradition of the heroes of October 19 1977, such as Percy Qoboza.

The challenge is to have these excellent journalists being the rule rather than the exception. Currently, the converse applies. In our interaction with many media workers - for in our public positions they haunt us like shadows - one hears the same story over and over, the story of frustrated journalists, be it in the



NOT ALL IS GLOOM: Gauteng premier yesterday, highlighted some encouraging

newsroom, a conservative Afrikaans newspaper, the editor's office of a pseudo-liberal English weekly which masquerades as a progressive paper, or in the production seat of an SABC news programme - all are battling with the frustrations of reflecting the "new South African story" against some of their editors, sorry signs who have been left way down the road.

Take the shame of Rapport, the country - people who carry an apartheid monument left behind by time, which still visualises Mandela the black terrorist, and not Mandela the non-racial president. As far as this publication is concerned, nothing that is done by the president, let alone by the Government, can ever be appreciated.

As for the other English weekly, very bulky with emptiness: it is a poor excuse for curious neo-liberal sentiments which is slowly - if not rapidly - ren-

dering our m. In this skinned the over colour over & referre contin ers are cist ma In ti the dep ster Sp from know this co lower ever, w of the weeklie their w to say Sim Sunday lows: un as the r

is in media election, says Sexwale



auteng premier Sexwale, pictured
the encouraging aspects of the media
PHOTOGRAPH ANTON HAMMERL

dering itself irrelevant on serious matters of national debate. In this publication, we the dark-skinned people of this country – the overwhelming majority of us, coloured, African and Indian, over 80% of the nation – are still referred to as “Extra”, as they continue to produce “Extra” covers around their white supremacist main publication.

In the past, when we heard of the departure of the likes of Allister Sparks and Richard Steyn from the newspaper scene, knowing their commitment to this country, we were tempted to lower our flags in salute. However, with the departure of some of the editors of our famous weeklies, although we may miss their wit, many of us are tempted to say: It’s about time.

Similarly, our advice to the Sunday Times’ owners is as follows: until you reflect the nation as the main content of your pub-

lication, and not as a wrap-around “Extra”, there is no future for you in South Africa.

To the general media, in 1995 and beyond, hard-working journalists strive to write feature stories which document the real pain – and joy – of life in the new South Africa. Photographers and camera people wish to capture the texture of South African society. TV producers want to go beyond the confines of a 30-second soundbite.

Often they are unable to – blocked by the older, more conservative controlmen at the top who, like many journalists of old, seem to have embraced the culture of cynicism and negativity as if it is a lifebelt for surviving the excitement, the challenge and the passion of Mandela’s South Africa.

This situation is obviously of great concern to anyone committed to the development of a free press in South Africa, as it is having a profound impact on the next generation of media workers – those who will be the Kaiser Nyatumbas and Mathatha Tsedus of the 21st century.

The young journalists we meet say, almost unanimously, that some of their employers are not geared towards the new South Africa. They seem to be more terrified than ordinary people, because some of the stories of hope which they come across never reach the “news in brief” section.

Some of those in decision-making positions are not ready to accept change. They refuse to accept that things are in fact better: that the economy is growing at the rate of 3% a year, and promises to improve, that investor confidence is at an all-time high in South Africa, that the growth rate is private sector driven, with high capital investments reflected in fixed domestic investment; that although we are still haemorrhaging in Natal, by and large political violence is under control, that the crime rate, although troublesome, has its roots in the past and did not come with the inauguration of Mandela, as some false prophets would have us believe; that water is being pumped into informal settlements where, in the past, 1 000 families survived around one tap.

It is ironic that the major changes we have seen in the South African mass print media have been in the field of design and packaging, rather than content.

We have seen millions of rands spent on building new

facades for the conservative or neo-liberal media institutions of old – and inside, the same old racists tick away, blocking change and entrenched in their belief that black people cannot rule, that ordinary people are stupid and incapable of making sound judgments.

Concerning the SABC, change has arrived here and is coming slowly but surely to the rest of the electronic media. But the SABC still has to manage change at middle management level. Change is still desperately needed in the boardrooms of South Africa’s print media – at Naspers, Perskor, TML and Independent Newspapers.

The potential of these new media ventures is exciting. It is the kind of development we need if we are to meet the objective enshrined in the constitution, of ensuring freedom of expression. On this very special day, we invite them to get aggressive, in their quest to reflect a rapidly changing society with its pillars of reconstruction, growth and development.

A parting shot on ownership: the current debate – particularly on foreign ownership of local media – has revealed what is seemingly a dichotomous situation. We from government and other quarters have made passionate calls for foreign investment in order to grow our economy. Yet we are portrayed as being critical of foreign investment, and consequently ownership, of the South African media.

Our position is as follows: We urge foreign investors of all kinds to invest in South Africa, by saying “Buy with us, don’t buy us.” Let’s be good partners. Or, put another way: “Buy South African. Don’t buy South Africa.” If you still don’t understand: “Own with us, don’t own us.”

Earlier, I stated that the South African media is not in a healthy state. But there are beacons of hope, particularly among the newly emerging media.

Earlier today, I held a meeting

with representatives of some of our province’s new community radio stations and newspapers.

They are enthusiastic, and have a real desire to help the people to speak out, to reach out, to find out. They have opened the doors of community initiatives and created a platform for the people of their township or suburb.

The potential of these new media ventures is exciting. It is the kind of development we need if we are to meet the objective, enshrined in the constitution, of ensuring freedom of expression in our country.

On this special day, we invite them to get aggressive in their quest to reflect a rapidly changing society with its pillars of reconstruction, growth and development. But we note that their success can be much enhanced when the traditional mainstream media passes on its positive experiences to these alternative voices.

As we reflect on this, we cannot escape from asking the question: Whether the alternative media of the 1990s, which is so critical for today, when far-flung communities, programmes and projects from water to brick-making, reconstruction heroes and heroines, who are forgotten by the traditional media, need to be reflected? We pose this question to those individuals, organisations, institutions and NGOs that used to produce those remarkable publications.

I conclude by taking this opportunity to remind all of us of our responsibilities towards one another. As government, we expect you to continue to keep us on our toes, as you are the conscience of our society.

We expect you to do so critically, with a bit of intellectual aggression, with gusto, tongue-in-cheek if you prefer, and as hard hitting as the media is worldwide, like the Ted Koppels, Leslie Mashokwes and Joseph Lelyvelds of our media world.

But nevertheless, society at large – which you constantly have to mirror, and which, in turn, also reflects on you – expects you to do all these things constructively, with honesty and fairness, with equality, with dignity, with impeccable intellectual finesse and, as Aggrey Klaaste once said, with the understanding that, after all, you are the media, writing about a South African story – a changing story, a changing environment, and inevitably a changing media. Don’t let change leave you behind.

'SA media too white'

By SIFELANI MLAMBO

MEDIA diversity and ownership in South Africa came under the spotlight at the celebration of the 18th anniversary of Press Freedom Day this week

At a seminar in Johannesburg on Thursday, organised by the *Sowetan* newspaper, media gurus discussed ways of broadening press ownership in South Africa

Editors at the seminar agreed there was a need to broaden press ownership to reflect the country's demography (243)

The editors noted that the South African press had been slow to respond to the changes the country was undergoing

Speaking at the seminar, City Press Editor Khulu Sibiyi said blacks should look at ways and means of making the white media realise it was imperative to broaden press ownership.

He said if the white media were still sceptical about the capabilities of blacks to run and own newspapers, blacks should consider seeking help from outside South Africa

The help should not be in the form of overseas business tycoons coming in to take over the newspapers, Sibiyi warned

CP 22/10/95
He said if help from the white media was not forthcoming, blacks should use their numbers to get a press of their own

"Form a board of trustees and ask every single black person in this country to contribute anything from R10 to R1-million, and those who can afford it can pay even more towards starting our own media," he said

Enterprise magazine Editor Thami Mazwai echoed these sentiments, saying pressure must be put on the government to facilitate change in press ownership through legislation

Mazwai said the media in South Africa were still owned by whites and many newspapers reflected the views and ideas of white people

He said the liberation struggle was both socio-economic and political and the media also had to respond to the changes the struggle achieved.

The Star Editor Peter Sullivan acknowledged the imbalances in press ownership but attributed them to South Africa's history.

However, he said the white media were prepared to sit down and discuss issues such as ownership and diversity

Mandela calls for Press changes to be handled frankly

(243) ARG 27/10/95

JOHANNESBURG.— The transformation of the Press should be handled frankly to ensure the emerging unity is real, unpretentious and enduring, President Mandela told members of the Black Editors' Forum here today.

"The recent moves towards establishing an all-embracing forum for editors are most encouraging and we hope that they will facilitate the transformation required in South Africa's media," he said.

Mr Mandela was referring to developments following the recent resignation of City Press editor Khulu Sibiyi as chairman and member of the Conference of Editors.

Sibiyi cited continuing disputes, adding he did not believe black and white editors would ever agree on certain crucial issues.

Mr Mandela said the country had inherited media institutions whose account of society reflected the unequal distribution of political and economic power.

But better representation alone would not "give South Africa the journalism it deserves". While foreign investment in the media brought money, innovation and technology, Mr Mandela said it could also help to entrench the current management make-up.

Referring to the local government elections, he said there was a danger of reacting "to the negativity and shallowness that characterised white electoral politics in the apartheid era".

The president addressed the meeting on a number of other issues, some of which he said were "off the record". — Sapa.

Foreign investment in local media can be constructive

STAFF REPORTER

President Nelson Mandela intervened yesterday in the debate over international investment in the South African media, saying the issue had been raised in a way that could lead to confusion.

Addressing a meeting of the Black Editors' Forum in Johannesburg, Mandela said his impression was that the manner in

which the foreign investment debate had been aired thus far "can divert us from the central question of diversity."

He said that there was "nothing in foreign investment (in the media) that is inherently good or bad. It depends on how such investment advances the cause of diversity and empowerment and ensures an orientation in content that is truly South

African."

Mandela added that "foreign investment brought financial resources, innovation and technology to our country."

The question as to whether its overall effect was constructive for South Africa depended on whether investors entrenched existing management and leadership, or opened up new vistas for blacks

The president said the recent "turmoil among the editors of our country's newspapers" was to be expected "because, in the reconstruction of our country, each sector and structure must undergo its own transformation."

The issues should be handled frankly "so that the unity (among editors) that should surely emerge from this process

is real, unpretentious and enduring." He specifically welcomed the current initiative to form an all-embracing, nonracial editors' forum.

Mandela praised black editors for involving themselves in the debate about the transformation of the media, but warned "We should guard against the belief that media institutions which are more representative,

whether in ownership, editorship or operations, will by that fact alone give South Africa the journalism it deserves."

Professionalism was the greatest challenge, he said, and black entrepreneurs should also develop greater interest in the media industry.

Referring to the recent collapse of African Bank, the president said the lesson of the saga

was that such enterprises had to be run professionally in order to succeed.

"We should remember that our success will depend on how, by force of example, we establish ourselves as leaders in everything we do."

Mandela expressed optimism about the future of the Reconstruction and Development Programme and the prospects for

further economic growth, and said campaigning for the community elections should not "divert the country from the central task of political and socio-economic transformation."

South Africans should not, he added, "be tempted to react to the negativity and shallowness that all along characterised white electoral politics in the apartheid era."

10/19/95
says president

SA press is at the crossroads: it must now find itself

(243) Star 28/10/95

This is an edited version of the Robert Godlonton Commemorative Media Lecture, delivered at the Department of Journalism, Pretoria Technikon, by **SHAUN JOHNSON** this week. Johnson is editor of the Saturday Star and The Sunday Independent

A frustrating thing about historical turning points is that often one has turned before realising it – the critical moment is revealed only in hindsight – and opportunities which, clarity of vision and context would have provided, are lost. And so I think it may be regarding the media (particularly the press) of South Africa in 1995, one-and-a-half years into our new democracy.

There has been a turning point and the press is still in the arc of the curve, unsure as to whether we will accelerate out safely, or crash. I believe it is not too late to summon up the necessary driving skills. If only we will recognise the seminal moment for what it is: the arrival of the long-awaited on-the-ground transition from the old South Africa to the new.

South Africa's political revolution took place 18 months ago. It *was* a revolution, though a uniquely benign one, and as with all revolutions the easy part was changing the occupants of the various State houses. In our case the ease approached miraculousness. Leaving aside the towering problems of poverty, unemployment, crime, material imbalances and economic sluggishness, the political miracle is still there for all to wonder at: the vanquished sit alongside the victors in the cabinet and in parliament, defenders of the old order defend the new in the military and in the police. There is more freedom, more liberty than any of us have known in our lives. That scenario was fanciful, to say the least, in the final years of the previous decade, when full-blooded civil war and thoroughgoing economic collapse were the likeliest outcomes for our country.

But the revolution was never going to stop in parliament. It could not and it should not. Every single sector of our society is now beginning to feel it, and feeling for ways of resisting or embracing it. As I am fond of saying, you cannot agree to change and then try to stay the same.

The great questions of diversity, representativity, affirmative action, international investment and the like are going to be on the table until they are answered. The table will not be cleared before then.

But I am not presumptuous enough to try to answer these great questions. Their resolution lies in a process of deep collective thinking, not individual certainties. But I would like to pose a question about the media which I think is in the long term even deeper and wider, certainly less transient than the outcome of current power struggles, although it is linked to them.

For the past several decades a terrible thing has been happening to "the media", in its modern Western, commercial, independent sense.

There has been a gradual, but inexorable, decline in the status which the craft of journalism enjoys in the minds of those it serves. We are still read, watched and listened to in great (but varying) numbers, but by and large we are not respected as defenders of morality, trusted as guardians of goodness, appreciated as educators, loved as entertainers, or even regarded as reliable purveyors of information. Of course there are

For decades a terrible thing has been happening to the media ... a gradual inexorable decline in the status of the craft

thrilling exceptions, but the general trend is clear.

An astonishing number of media consumers around the world, and here in South Africa, simply takes it for granted that our motives are not high-minded. It is not a joke that journalists often come out below used car salesmen in those perennial surveys of public prestige.

To an alarming number of people we have about us permanently the whiff of endemic negativism and cynicism, of reveling in our capacity to break and destroy and sensationalise, to hunt and hound, of thriving on failures, disorders and horrors, of considering achievement and gentler aspects of life to be anathema – not macho enough to be real "news".

Now as individuals many of us know this extreme, untextured view to be neither true nor fair. But the perception is there whether we like it or not. It is inordinately powerful among black South Africans.

I cannot do justice to such a labyrinthine phenomenon in this space, so broad brush-strokes will have to suffice. The perception cuts cleanly across barriers of race, age, class, gender and international boundaries.

It has been building up for many years. The complaint is not that we in the media publish "bad" news – that is accepted as part of life, which must show if the mirror reflects properly – but that our mindset makes bad news big news, perhaps the only news really worth worrying about.

Let me take a moment to face head-on the stooped response to the kind of argument I am building towards. It is that those journalists (a growing band around the world, I am pleased to say) who are concerned by this trend of revisionism against our beloved craft, are proposing sunshine or sweetheart journalism, the easy, cosy way which proclaims heaven in hell and crumples nasty truths into the waste-basket under the editor's desk.

I can only make the counter-charge that this response is cowardly, lazy and arrogant. What I and others are proposing is a difficult, never-ending critical assessment of what we do and how we do it. It will make our jobs harder, not easier. We are not on the side of politicians or powerful people who want to be whitewashed; we are implacably against them. We take proper pleasure in media exposes of genuine corruption and failure.

But we insist on asking at the same time: "Is the whole we produce as close to the truth as we can get?" Is the balance as good as mere flawed human beings can make it?

Let me call up an ally. The BBC broadcaster Marilyn Lewis delivered a lecture in 1993 which fit a first storm of controversy.

Among the detailed points he made was this general one: "We in the media, he said, "are increasingly shaping the psyche of the nation – conditioning the mood in which people go to bed at night, and the frame of mind with which they face each new day. And that imposes upon us a responsibility to present a more accurate mirror image of the overall balance of events and issues that affect our viewers and their world."

That is surely right. While our founding election showed how risible is the vanity of some journalists who think we decide how people vote, we do influence peoples' perceptions of where the country is going, of its state of health.

Lewis was not proposing a jettisoning of what is good and courageous about our craft – in fact he envisaged a mindset change of



SHAUN JOHNSON

just a few "percentage points" – but it was a measure of "the media's" defensiveness that the overwhelming response was to pillow and mock him. What was not taken seriously in the argument was that Lewis abhors unrealistic, do-gooding, Pollyanna-ish journalism which has the temerity to tell people everything is fine when they can damn well see for themselves that it is not.

"Feel-good" slots in newspapers or on television programmes never work. People distrust them and come to ignore them. The real challenge is to reflect as well, the real news about those things that are going right.

In another country, Canada, another ally John Fraser, the retired editor of Saturday Night magazine, He said, "Much as my colleagues lament the fact, there are real reasons why journalism is held in such low esteem these days. However honourable were the intentions of the two mighty journalists at The Washington Post who broke and sustained the Watergate story, they have nevertheless spawned several generations of second- and third-rate Carl Bernsteins and Bob Woodward's. We've been paying the price ever since in the demolition of respect for public institutions, in the declining quality of our political leaders and in the stultifying cynicism of a public that now needs to manipulate any old trashy expose in increasingly frequent and deadly doses."

I have seen this syndrome at first hand, over many years. Young, talented and inexperienced reporters come into newsrooms determined to succeed, and quickly imbibe the notion that the only way to do so is to seek out shock and horror.

In South Africa the syndrome was exacerbated over the years by the reign of apartheid: many journalists entered the profession in order to fight, or to defend, that system. The old Saco slogan of the 1970s "comes to mind: "No normal sport in an abnormal society." They might have said "no normal newspapers in an abnormal society" – and old habits die hard.

Let me drag this big debate back home. There is a tendency for journalists to assume that criticism from politicians in almost all cases means that the politicians are seeking to manipulate them.

There is so much evidence to support this

instinctive view that it would be too boring to recount it here. Moreover, it is simply that that governments and the media must, in a democracy, have a relationship which is to a degree adversarial.

But in this country at this moment, the concertina-like collapsing of all criticism into the same sinister mould is not helpful, in fact it is downright destructive. We may be approaching a point whereby distrust becomes so keen on either side that war is the only way of settling the matter. That is crazy, we, who pride ourselves on our critical faculties should surely be able to surf the self-serving from the sincere, and act accordingly.

There have been some recent criticisms by top members of the new political elite which I believe not only deserve a serious hearing, but demand one.

In August Thabo Mbeki had this to say: "The government fully recognises and accepts the role of the media to be a critical

The real challenge is to reflect, as well, the real news about those things that are going right in our country

commentator on government activity. The media should be beyond the control of government." That is, taken at its word, as strong a commitment as any press, anywhere, could ask from the government of its country. But Mbeki went on and, I feel, these subtle points did not receive the attention they deserved. "Having said this," he said, "the question rises into sharp focus are the relations between media and government of necessity hostile? Our own view is that such a relationship is not generative to those two institutions."

On separate occasions I had cause to discuss the press with Cyril Ramaphosa and Tokyo Sexwale. Both spoke spontaneously about what they perceived as a generalised cynicism and negativity within the press, almost an ingrained canon. They felt that there was an ingrained tendency to seek out the negative, to assume the worst before asking the first question, to disbelieve the answer under almost any circumstances.

I have to say I think they have a valid point. This very month Sexwale said in a speech "Are we sure that we all understand this story from the same point of view? Or are we sitting on different sides of the fire,

where we see a country that does not work, a country that slides into chaos, where cynicism has overtaken intellect where seemingly nothing works."

Do we not have to answer this? And if we believe we do not (because, after all, the challenge is coming from a politician who has an election to fight and does not enjoy having the failings of his party pointed out), then we must surely pause to hear the second point. "Sadly, the popularity ratings of some of South Africa's mass media are at an all-time low – not only among political parties but also among the ordinary people of our rainbow nation."

Now politicians must never direct the press, or even the debate about it. We must do that ourselves, but we must open our ears at least to the voices of the people we write for, and stop being so arrogant as to suggest there are not ways of performing our craft better.

Independent Newspapers' new title, *The Sunday Independent*, set out just over four months ago with many ideals which I believe to be honourable. One was to try to provide better "quality", in the full sense which that word is used in journalistic circles, and another was to employ only that degree of cynicism which is necessary when pursuing genuine wrongdoing. Cynicism does not wait from our pages like a malign, impregnated scent. We are committed to this new democratic country and want it to succeed.

Does that mean we publish only sweetness and light? Far from it, us a cursory glance at our editions will show. But we make an effort to reach out each week for balance, for the closest we can get to a holistic truth. We do better in some weeks and worse in others, but we know what we are trying for.

Newspapers will never be mirrors that tell no lies, however herculean our efforts, but we can make the reflections fairer. We must accept in the process that it is much more difficult to write as affectingly and convincingly about those sensational aspects that actually keep the country ticking, than it is to compose Swiathan prose about disaster and apocalypse.

But that should be a welcome challenge for committed professionals who are also committed South Africans. We must grasp the opportunities of change. I think we bear a great responsibility to try to make our press better in 10 years' time. I would like to be able to answer this question positively to my own conscience: "Did we reflect our country as fairly as we possibly could?" That is all

Press must find ways to perform its craft better

11

FOR the past several decades a terrible thing has been happening to "the media" in the modern Western, commercial, independent sense

There has been a gradual, but inexorable, decline in the status which the craft of journalism enjoys in the minds of those it serves. We are still read, watched and listened to in great (but varying) numbers but, by and large, we are not respected as defenders of morality, trusted as guardians of goodness, appreciated as educators, loved as entertainers or even regarded as reliable purveyors of information

Of course, there are thrilling exceptions, but the general trend is clear. Its most dangerous tentacle, as far as the Press is concerned, is the undeniable fact that fewer and fewer young people, from senior pupil level upwards, are choosing to inherit the newspaper reading habit from their elders

An astonishing number of media consumers around the world — and here in South Africa, too — simply take it for granted that our motives are not high-minded. It is not a joke that journalists often come out below used-car salesmen in those perennial surveys of public prestige, not if you take seriously the role that the media have to play in the life of a nation

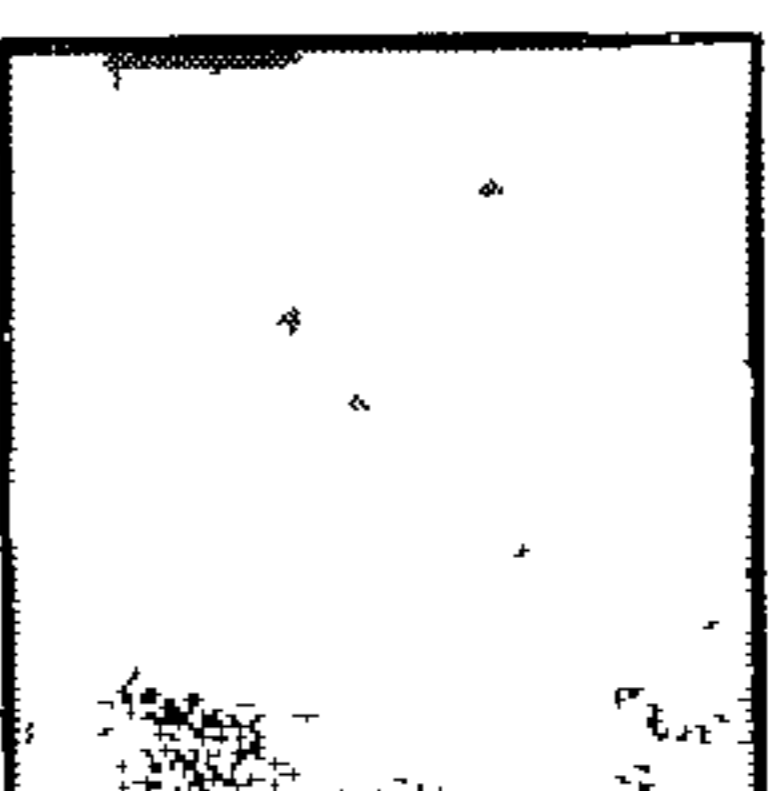
To an alarming number of people we have about us permanently the whiff of endemic negativism and cynicism, of revelling in our incapacity to break and destroy and sensationalise, to hunt and hound, of thriving on failures, disorders and horrors, of considering achievement and gentler aspects of life to be anathema — not macho enough to be real "news"

Now, as individuals, many of us know this extreme, untextured view to be neither true nor fair and we react angrily to such charges because we can cite so many examples of reality not squaring with perception. But the perception is there whether we like it or not and it is especially damaging in this country at this time

The perception is inordinately powerful among black South Africans at this moment. It cuts cleanly across barriers of race, age, class, gender and international boundaries. It has been building up for many years. The complaint is not that we in the media publish "bad" news — that is accepted as part of life, which must show if the mirror reflects properly — but that our mindset makes bad news big news, perhaps the only news really worth worrying about

Let me take a moment to face head-on the stock response to the kind of argument I am building towards. It is that those journalists (a growing band around the world, I am pleased to

■ The South African media have been under increasing attack from various sides, often being accused of being one-eyed purveyors of "bad news". The media does not always take kindly to such criticism. But, warns **SHAUN JOHNSON**, right, some of the arguments are valid and something needs to be done.



say) who are concerned by this trend of revulsion against our beloved craft, are proposing sunshine or sweetheart journalism, the easy, cosy way which proclaims heaven in hell and crumples nasty truths into the waste-basket under the editor's desk

I can only make the counter-charge that this response is cowardly, lazy and arrogant. What I and others are proposing is a difficult, painful, never-ending critical assessment of what we do and how we do it. It will make our jobs harder, not easier. We are not on the side of politicians or powerful people who want to be whitewashed. We are implacably against them. We take proper pleasure in media exposes of genuine corruption and failure, and we scorn those who say that freedom of speech should be made subordinate to "national unity", or whichever phrase might be in fashion

But we insist on asking at the same time. Is the whole we produce as close to the truth as we can get? Is the balance as good as mere flawed human beings can make it?

BBC broadcaster Martyn Lewis, a veteran of 28 years of journalism, delivered a lecture in 1993 which lit a firestorm of controversy in our trade

Among the detailed points he made was this general one. "We in the media," he said, "are increasingly shaping the psyche of the nation — conditioning the mood in which people go to bed at night and the frame of mind with which they face each new day. And that imposes upon us a responsibility to present a more accurate mirror image of the overall balance of events and issues that affect our viewers and their world"

That is surely right. While South Africa's founding election last year showed how visible is the vanity of some journalists who think we decide how people vote, we do influence people's perceptions of where the country is going, of its state of health or illness

Lewis was not proposing a jettisoning of what is good and courageous about our craft — in fact, he envisaged a mindset change of just a few "percentage points" — but it was a measure of "the

media's" defensiveness that the overwhelming response was to pillory and mock him as having gone soft

What was not taken seriously in the argument was that Lewis abhors unrealistic, do-gooding, Pollyanna-ish journalism which has the temerity to tell people everything is fine when they can damn well see for themselves that is not

"Feel-good" slots in newspapers or on television programmes never work. People distrust them and come to ignore them. The real challenge is to reflect as well the real news about those things that are going right — and that, I can promise you, requires very good journalism if it is going to be taken seriously after all this time

In this country we have not, thankfully, reached the stage where the distinction between newspapers and comics becomes blurred, with the mission statements of publications like *The Sun* in Britain now unrecognisable against the loftier goals of a free Press. But still we are in trouble, and we should listen. Our approach and our quality are in question

Let me drag this big debate back home. There is a tendency for journalists, and it is born of years of bitter experience, to assume that criticism from politicians in almost all cases means that the politicians are seeking to manipulate them, sully their independence and get their own way

The experience of the Press under former governments did nothing to leaven suspicions of sub-agendas and suborning. Moreover, it is simply that governments and the media must, in a democracy, have a relationship which is to a degree adversarial.

But in this country at this moment, the concertina-like collapsing of all criticism into the same sinister mould is not helpful, in fact, it is downright destructive. We may be approaching a point whereby distrust becomes so keen on either side that war is the only way of settling the matter. That is crazy, we, who pride ourselves on our critical faculties, should surely be able to sift the

self-serving from the sincere, and act accordingly

Here are some recent examples of criticisms made by top members of the new political elite, which I believe not only deserve a serious hearing, but demand one

At a conference in Waenhuiskrans in August this year deputy president and ANC chairman Thabo Mbeki had this to say. "The government fully recognises and accepts the role of the media to be a critical commentator on government activity. The media should be beyond the control of government. They should at all times retain the right to determine how and what to cover. For the media to reflect the needs, desires and views of society, they must remain independent"

That is, taken at its word, as strong a commitment as any Press, anywhere, could ask from the government of its country. But Mbeki went on and, I feel, these subtle points did not receive the attention they deserved

"Having said this," he said, "the question rises into sharp focus are the relations between media and government of necessity hostile? Our own view is that such a relationship is not generic to those two institutions"

I think this is a valid point. I also happen to believe that our criticisms of the RDP, for example, would be taken much more seriously if they were not becoming stock-in-trade, with little distinction drawn between the serious and the superficial — the journalistic equivalent of a shark feeding frenzy

Politicians never direct the Press, or even the debate about it. We must do that ourselves. But we must open our ears at least to the voices of the people we write for and stop being so arrogant as to suggest there are not ways of performing our craft better

Newspapers will never be mirrors that tell no lies, however herculean our efforts, but we can make the reflections fairer

We must accept in the process that it is much more difficult to write as affectingly and convincingly about those unsensational aspects that actually keep the country ticking, than it is to compose Swiathan prose about disaster and apocalypse. But that should be a welcome challenge for committed professionals who are also committed South Africans. We must grasp the opportunities of change

■ This is an edited version of the Robert Goddinton Commemorative Media Lecture delivered by Shaun Johnson at the Department of Journalism, Pretoria Technikon, this week. Johnson is editor of the *Saturday Argus's* sister newspapers, the *Saturday Star* and *The Sunday Independent*

(243) ARG 28/10/95

Unity among editors 'must be enduring'

(243)

ARG 28/10/95

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — President Nelson Mandela has intervened in the debate over international investment in the South African media, saying the issue had been raised in a way that could lead to confusion

Addressing a meeting of the Black Editors' Forum yesterday, Mr Mandela said his impression was that the manner in which the foreign investment debate had been aired thus far "can divert us from the central question of diversity".

He said there was "nothing in foreign investment (in the media) that is inherently good or bad. It depends on how such investment advances the cause of diversity and empowerment; and ensures an orientation in content that is truly South African".

Mr Mandela said foreign investment brought financial resources, innovation and technology to our country.

The President said the recent "tur-

moil amongst the editors of our country's newspapers" was to be expected "because, in the reconstruction of our country, each sector and structure must undergo its own transformation".

The issues should be handled frankly "so that the unity (among editors) that should surely emerge from this process is real, unpretentious and enduring". He specifically welcomed the initiative to form an all-embracing, non-racial editors forum

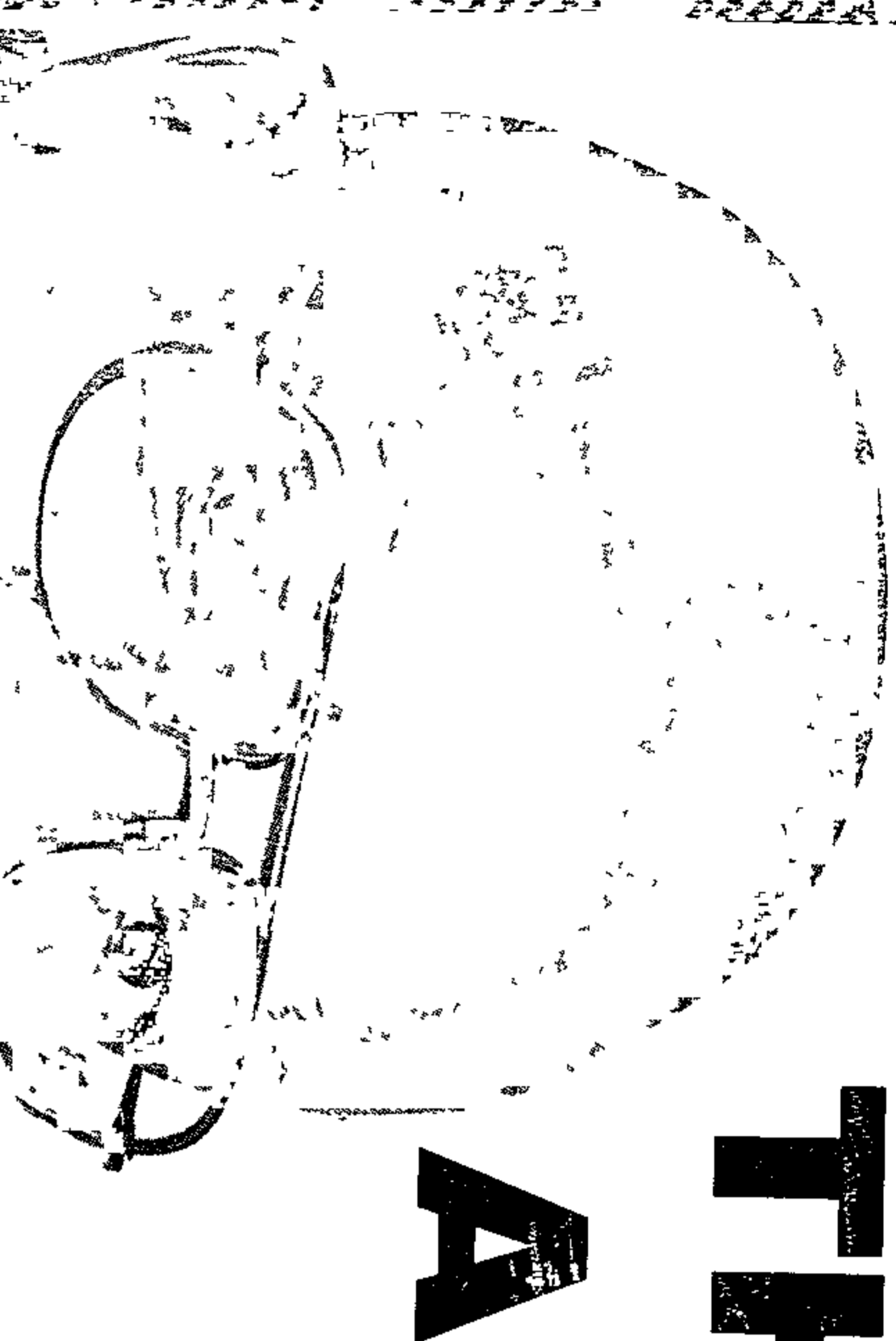
Mr Mandela praised black editors for involving themselves in the debate about the transformation of the media, but warned: "We should guard against the belief that media institutions which are more representative, whether in ownership, editorship or operations, will by that fact alone give South Africa the journalism it deserves"

Professionalism was "the greatest challenge, he said, and black entrepreneurs should also develop greater interest in the media industry.

THE MEDIA

AND DEMOCRACY

(2143) CP 29/10/98



RAINBOW MEDIA . . . Thami Mazwai believes that the South African media need to express more cultural diversity.

THE CONTROVERSIAL subject of media ownership and control in South Africa is one of many media issues lying close to the heart of Thami Mazwai, editor of the black business magazine *Enterprise*

This became clear in the recent *Agenda/Newsline* debate between him and Peter Sullivan, editor of *The Star*, and in an interview with *Sake-Beeld* this week. Mazwai does not mince his words

"The media have to support our democracy and play a crucial role in the protection, consolidation and entrenchment of the freedoms for which we fought and which we now enjoy

"But do all South Africans have access to the media? Do they reflect all views? Do they encourage debate on sensitive issues? Does the African way of life, for instance, get the same respect as the western way of life? Are the media gender sensitive? Do the composition and management structure of the media reflect the country's demography and genders?"

"The answer to most of these questions is a clear "no." The media is in all respects predominantly white and male. This has a negative impact on our democracy and must be corrected

"However, while diversification of the media is necessary for democracy to bloom, the government's handling of the issue is ultra-sensitive"

Mazwai provided a few examples of how mainstream newspapers tend to protect the interests of the white community

"In the advertising industry there is an increasing Africanisation of the message and the use of symbols understood by black people. Of course, the advertising industry is doing this because its existence depends on an increase in sales for the client

"The media, on the other hand, do not have this sensitivity. So far the media have functioned as if South Africa were an extension of Europe or America, and have not tried to become a part of Africa"

To illustrate his point, Mazwai refers to the different milestones in a

person's life: birth, coming of age, marriage and death

"What distinguishes an Arab from a Jew, an Afrikaner from a Xhosa? It's how we celebrate and remember these occasions

"The black 'version' of coming of age is circumcision. But when the media report on circumcision, it is depicted as a barbaric practice. When it comes to the unhygienic aspect of circumcision, I am indeed concerned, but this is increasingly being eliminated by the use of sterilised instruments and equipment

Black journalists are aware of these changes, and can also depict these cultural practices with insight - and thus help to depict South Africa in a balanced way

"The survival of a newspaper such as *Beeld* is dependant on providing for South Africans - rather than just for Afrikaners. It is a respected publication, but it must also be attractive to black people. And black people will buy it, for many of them read Afrikaans. It makes more business sense for *Beeld* to get black readers

"But how can a white journalist be sent to Soweto and write convincingly on black aspirations?"

Mazwai's strategies for a more representative media dispensation are

■ Shareholding by black people, the appointment and training of black people in senior editorial positions and the presenting of programmes/courses to quickly train black people in the media industry. The government should withhold its advertising and that of state institutions from newspapers who do not comply,

■ Legislation must be passed to prohibit or regulate vertical integration in order to ensure free and fair competition,

■ A limit must be placed on the interests of foreigners in South Africa's media groups. They must not get a dominant interest,

■ Legislation must be passed to limit cross-shareholding, interlinked directorships, trade agreements and cartels

between important groups.

■ The government help to finance the gluing media corporations of black and Indian people

■ The government the Independent Casting Authority not allow the black groups to enter the casting industry would expose the radio stations to competition by players

Mazwai was by a news editor, assistant editor of *the Star* and established the newspaper's by-election. He was also formerly a reporter of the *Transvaal Press* and the *Sunday Times*

In 1993 he was appointed director of the *Enterprise*, *Mask* and *Publishing* and later for-in-chief of *Enterprise*

His political career saw him serve two month sentences on Robben Island, where he obtained his political

there was no communication in some areas
difficult for their workers and
it might make it difficult for their workers and
it might make it difficult for their workers and

'Unity must be for real'

(243)

Sincerity can heal rift between black and white media - Mandela

29/10/95



PRESS DIVIDED . . . Black and white editors are still not walking the same road, says City Press editor Khulu Sibya.

THE TRANSFORMATION of the press should be handled frankly to ensure the emerging unity was real, unpretentious and enduring, President Nelson Mandela told members of the Black Editors' Forum in Johannesburg on Friday.

"The recent moves towards establishing an all-embracing forum for editors are most encouraging and we hope that they will facilitate the transformation required in South Africa's media," Mandela said.

Resignation

He was referring to developments following the recent resignation of City Press editor Khulu Sibya as chairman and member of the Conference of Editors.

Sibya cited continuing disputes, adding he did not believe black and white editors would ever agree on certain crucial

issues

Mandela said the country had inherited media institutions whose account of society reflected the unequal distribution of political and economic power.

But better representation alone would not "give South Africa the journalism it deserves", he added.

While foreign investment in the media brought money and innovation, Mandela said, it could also help to entrench the current management make-up.

Referring to the local government elections, he said there was a danger of reacting "to the negativity and shallowness that

has all along characterised white electoral politics in the apartheid era."

The ANC particularly had to ensure the country was not diverted from political and socio-economic transformation

Delivery

The local government elections was one of the main remaining developments needed for the delivery of the reconstruction and development programme, he said.

Remarkable progress had however been made in implementing

the RDP, despite delays in delivery caused by bureaucratic procedures and the insistence on community involvement and skills training, Mandela said.

Within the next 18 months 300 projects would be completed to supply clean water to about four million people, he said.

Mandela said he had earlier this year been concerned that a third of the RDP budget would not be spent in the current financial year. But most of the funds - possibly up to R1,6 billion - would be spent through overcoming delays or reallocation to other projects, mostly housing.

Encouraging economic growth and development was one of government's highest priorities as illustrated by the presidential ad hoc committee, Mandela said.

Investment

Increased domestic fixed investment, falling inflation and expanding manufacturing were positive indicators.

But he warned that the current growth rate of three percent was not yet enough to make a substantial impact on unemployment - Sapa.

Media diversity controls disputed

(243) (250)
Ingrid Salgado

BD 7/11/95

THE print media industry told the parliamentary committee on communications yesterday that it would reserve the right to challenge further restrictions on cross-media ownership in the Constitutional Court.

Print Media Association of southern Africa representative and Times Media (TML) electronic media GM Neil Jacobsohn denied this was a threat to the parliamentary process. This view was echoed by Independent Newspapers' Gauteng GM Graeme King.

Urging the committee to reject the IBA's recent report on cross-media ownership, Jacobsohn said the IBA's recommendation that a 15% shareholding in a radio or TV licence constitute control of that licence was unacceptably low.

The definition of control in the IBA Act — more than 25% — was "more than adequate" to regulate cross-media ownership.

The legal definition of control was any shareholding above 50%, while a shareholding of more than 25% entitled a shareholder to block special resolutions. The association was prepared to accept that 25% constituted control.

Jacobsohn said it was "unnecessarily restrictive" that no person who controlled a newspaper could acquire financial control in both a radio and a television licence. Current provisions in the IBA Act limiting one party to the control of one private TV licence, two private AM and two private FM radio licences were sufficient, he said.

Jacobsohn said TML had no intention of applying for a licence in which it had a 100% stake. But newspapers were keen to be part of licence-seeking consortia which represented a variety of interests. The association was not seeking control of licence applications, but wanted the opportunity to have a "fair shareholding of the natural extension of the business we are in".

Committee member and ANC MP Carl Niehaus said it seemed contradictory that the association accepted the need for greater diversity, while resisting further restrictions on cross-media ownership. A variety of different voices was needed, not just different titles, Niehaus said.

NP MP Martinus van Schalkwyk said the committee had "great reservations" about the 15% cut-off line. It wanted to create stability and certainty in the industry.

Media diversity controls disputed

(243) ~~250~~
Ingrid Salgado

BD 7/11/95

THE print media industry told the parliamentary committee on communications yesterday that it would reserve the right to challenge further restrictions on cross-media ownership in the Constitutional Court.

Print Media Association of southern Africa representative and Times Media (TML) electronic media GM Neil Jacobsohn denied this was a threat to the parliamentary process. This view was echoed by Independent Newspapers' Gauteng GM Graeme King

Urging the committee to reject the IBA's recent report on cross-media ownership, Jacobsohn said the IBA's recommendation that a 15% shareholding in a radio or TV licence constitute control of that licence was unacceptably low.

The definition of control in the IBA Act — more than 25% — was "more than adequate" to regulate cross-media ownership.

The legal definition of control was any shareholding above 50%, while a shareholding of more than 25% entitled a shareholder to block special resolutions. The association was prepared to accept that 25% constituted control

Jacobsohn said it was "unnecessarily restrictive" that no person who controlled a newspaper could acquire financial control in both a radio and a television licence. Current provisions in the IBA Act limiting one party to the control of one private TV licence, two private AM and two private FM radio licences were sufficient, he said

Jacobsohn said TML had no intention of applying for a licence in which it had a 100% stake. But newspapers were keen to be part of licence-seeking consortia which represented a variety of interests. The association was not seeking control of licence applications, but wanted the opportunity to have a "fair shareholding of the natural extension of the business we are in".

Committee member and ANC MP Carl Niehaus said it seemed contradictory that the association accepted the need for greater diversity, while resisting further restrictions on cross-media ownership. A variety of different voices was needed, not just different titles, Niehaus said

NP MP Martinus van Schalkwyk said the committee had "great reservations" about the 15% cut-off line. It wanted to create stability and certainty in the industry.

News views in parliament

(243) ARG 7/11/95
NEWSPAPERS had no desire to monopolise radio stations or broadcasting, the parliamentary portfolio committee on communications has heard from representatives of major English newspapers.

However, newspapers could make a substantial contribution to emerging broadcasters, Neil Jacobsohn said on behalf of the Print Media Association yesterday.

Independent Newspapers editorial director Ivan Fallon said newspapers were the dinosaurs of the media industry and were in a long, slow decline, forcing them to become involved in the electronic media to survive.

"If a group like ours is de-

prived of that opportunity, we will continue to function but we would be hugely inhibited in terms of growth," he said.

"We are not asking to dominate the broadcasting arena, but just to be able to grow."

Graeme King, general manager of Independent's Gauteng newspapers, said newspapers recognised the authority of the Independent Broadcasting Authority to impose certain restrictions on cross-media ownership and no further regulation was necessary.

He said there should be no blanket regulation, and controls should be in the public interest, with individual applications considered on merit. — Sapa.

Press bid to reduce radio restrictions

(243)
CT 7/11/95
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: Representatives of major English-language newspapers yesterday made representations to the parliamentary portfolio committee on communications in an attempt to reduce restrictions on their future ownership of radio stations

Mr Ivan Fallon, editorial director of Independent Newspapers, said that when Independent bought substantial shares in the Argus company before last year's election, the company was in the unusual situation of only being involved in newspapers

While the company had made considerable investment in its products, "newspapers are the dinosaurs of the media industry which are in a long, slow decline, forcing us to become involved in the electronic media to survive".

"If a group like ours is deprived of that opportunity, we would be hugely inhibited in terms of growth," he said.

Mr Neil Jacobsohn, general manager of electronic media at Times Media Limited, and representing the Print Media Association, said that there was no desire for newspapers to monopolise radio stations, but they could make a substantial contribution to emerging broadcasters.

Mr Jacobsohn said the restrictions of 25% newspaper ownership of a radio station was sufficient, and the 15% restriction called for by the IBA was unnecessary



Carl Niehaus ... no room for diversity.



Ivan Fallon ... let company grow.

No further curbs on cross-media ownership needed, hearing told

BY MICHAEL SPARKS

Representatives of major English-language newspapers made representations to the parliamentary portfolio committee on communications yesterday in an attempt to reduce restrictions on their future ownership of radio stations

Ivan Fallon, editorial director of Independent Newspapers, which owns The Star, said that when Independent bought a substantial shareholding in the Argus company before last year's election, the company was in the unusual situation of being involved only in newspapers

While the company had made considerable investment into its products, "newspapers are the dinosaurs of the media industry which are in a long, slow decline, forcing us to become involved in the electronic media to survive", Fallon said

"If a group like ours is deprived of that opportunity, we will continue to function but we would be hugely inhibited in terms of growth," he said "We are not asking to dominate the broadcasting arena, but just to be able to grow," he added

Gauteng Newspapers general manager Graeme King said that while newspapers recognised the authority of the Independent Broadcasting Authority to impose certain restrictions on cross-media ownership, and the IBA Act gave sufficient powers to do so, no further regulation was necessary He added

there should be no blanket regulation, and controls should be in the public interest, with individual applications considered on merit.

Discussing the company's efforts at empowering the previously disadvantaged, King's special assistant, Noël Ndhlovu, said the process had seen the appointment of the first black editor of a traditionally white newspaper when Moegsien Williams was made editor of The Pretoria News, before being made editor of the Cape Times.

And now, for the first time, The Star had a black news editor and political editor. But he added that the company realised it was not enough, and also had other plans.

Neil Jacobsohn, general manager of electronic media at Times Media Limited, and representing the Print Media Association, agreed there was no desire for papers to monopolise radio stations, but said they could make a substantial contribution to emerging broadcasters He said the restrictions of 25% newspaper ownership of a radio was sufficient, and the 15% restriction urged by the IBA was unnecessary, since the IBA had the ultimate sanction of not granting licences

ANC MP Carl Niehaus said the current situation did not allow for the development of a greater diversity of voices

"It is irrelevant to talk about the large number of titles you represent, if it all boils down to newspapers being owned by the same small number of groups," he said

The hearings continue today.

(243) STAR 7/11/95

Defamation law put to the test

Star 8/11/95

(243)

BY HELEN GRANGE
Constitutional Court
Correspondent

The Pretoria News newspaper has asked the Constitutional Court to grant it the right to defend a defamation action on the grounds of freedom of speech, a ruling which would overturn the current law governing defamation in the press.

The request arises from a R5,75-million defamation action brought against the Pretoria News by businessman Gert de Klerk and his aircraft company Wonder Air.

He claims the Pretoria News, its then editor Deon du Plessis and the author, then political correspondent Dale Lautenbach, defamed him in a series of articles

published during February and March 1993, which implied he and his company were involved in the supply of arms, ammunition, medical relief and fuel to the Angolan Unita movement.

The defamatory points he claims were made are that such flights were illegal, that the flights were in conflict with legislation and air traffic control regulations, were in conflict with government policy and international interest, that it was for financial gain without regard to moral issues and that those involved were callous, unscrupulous, immoral and greedy.

De Klerk is claiming personal damages of R750 000 and company damages of R5-million. Judgment was reserved.

Ms Jabu Ntuli
710 Musgrave Centre,
Berea,
Durban
4001

25 Santa Monica
158 Innes Road,
Durban
4001

will become a net cash generator. He is happy with the credit system, 85% of sales are on hire purchase.

Since the start of the current financial year an economic value-added system has been in place. Expected benefits include lower-risk sales. So far, Sussman is happy with the results.

Sales have increased about 22% (year on year) in the four months since year-end, with cash flow R91m ahead of forecast. These figures include the 23 store closures that were part of the restructuring.

Analysts are divided on J D Group's share rating and how far the run on the share price will go. Many now prefer the counter to traditional sector leader Ellerinne.

Some feel J D Group's R4 rise last month has discounted much of the future earnings growth. But one leading analyst argues that well-managed and well-financed furniture merchants' shares should no longer trade at discounts to the ratings of quality clothing and food merchants — and he is forecasting J D Group will lift EPS by more than 30% over each of the next two years.

At 1 825c, the p/e ratio of 11,8 is below the sector average of 15,8. There could still be useful capital appreciation. *Michelle Joubert*

PERSKOR

Returns still too low

(243)
FM 10/11/95

Perskor management has good reason to be pleased with the group performance during the 1995 book year as benefits of continuing rationalisation and re-engineering started to bear fruit in a big way.

It is also clear that the 30,5% improvement in attributable earnings took the market by surprise. For much of the past year, the share has moved sideways within a narrow band. But, after the preliminary results at end-September, the price has moved up proportionately with the increase in EPS, adding about R150m to the market capitalisation of Perskorgroep.

Main thrust behind the improvement was an uptick in trading margin from 5,6% to 7,1%. Achieved against a background of in-

Activities: Printing and publishing of newspapers, magazines and books

Control: Dagbreek Trust through Perskor Beleggings 42,5%

Executive chairman: J M Buitendag

Capital structure: 7,9m ords Market capitalisation R632m

Share market: Price 8 000c Yields 1,1% on dividend, 7,6% on earnings, p/e ratio, 13,2, cover, 7,2 12-month high, 8 000c, low, 4 500c Trading volume last quarter, 63 787 shares

Year to June 30	'92	'93	'94	'95
ST debt (Rm)	5,1	8,9	7,0	3,2
LT debt (Rm)	17,2	15,0	8,0	8,4
Debt equity ratio	(0,01)	(0,07)	(0,07)	(0,09)
Shareholders' interest	0,72	0,70	0,76	0,73
Int & leasing cover	19,3	265,6	n/a	n/a
Return on cap (%)	8,8	8,4	7,4	7,6
Turnover (Rm)	673	709	759	802
Pre-int profit (Rm)	41,9	45,7	49,9	63,3
Pre-int margin (%)	5,5	5,6	5,6	7,1
Earnings (c)	387	411	466	608
Dividends (c)	49	57	64	84
Tangible NAV (c)	4 209	4 659	6 363	7 532

different business conditions — turnover declined in real terms again — the improvement in operational efficiencies is clear.

This point is further underscored in that total investment income (dividends, retained earnings of associates and net interest receipts), which has been the mainstay of earnings growth in recent years, rose only 9% in 1995.

But Perskor remains one of the most enigmatic companies on the JSE in terms of assessing its true performance and profitability. Taken at face value, the latest financial statements continue to reflect a group which is grossly under-profitable in relation to its considerable asset base.

Pre-interest return on assets, for example (with investments at market/directors' valuation), is shown to be only 7,6%, similarly calculated ROE is not much better at 8,1%. Both reflect improvements on 1994 but were still down on 1993 and prior years.

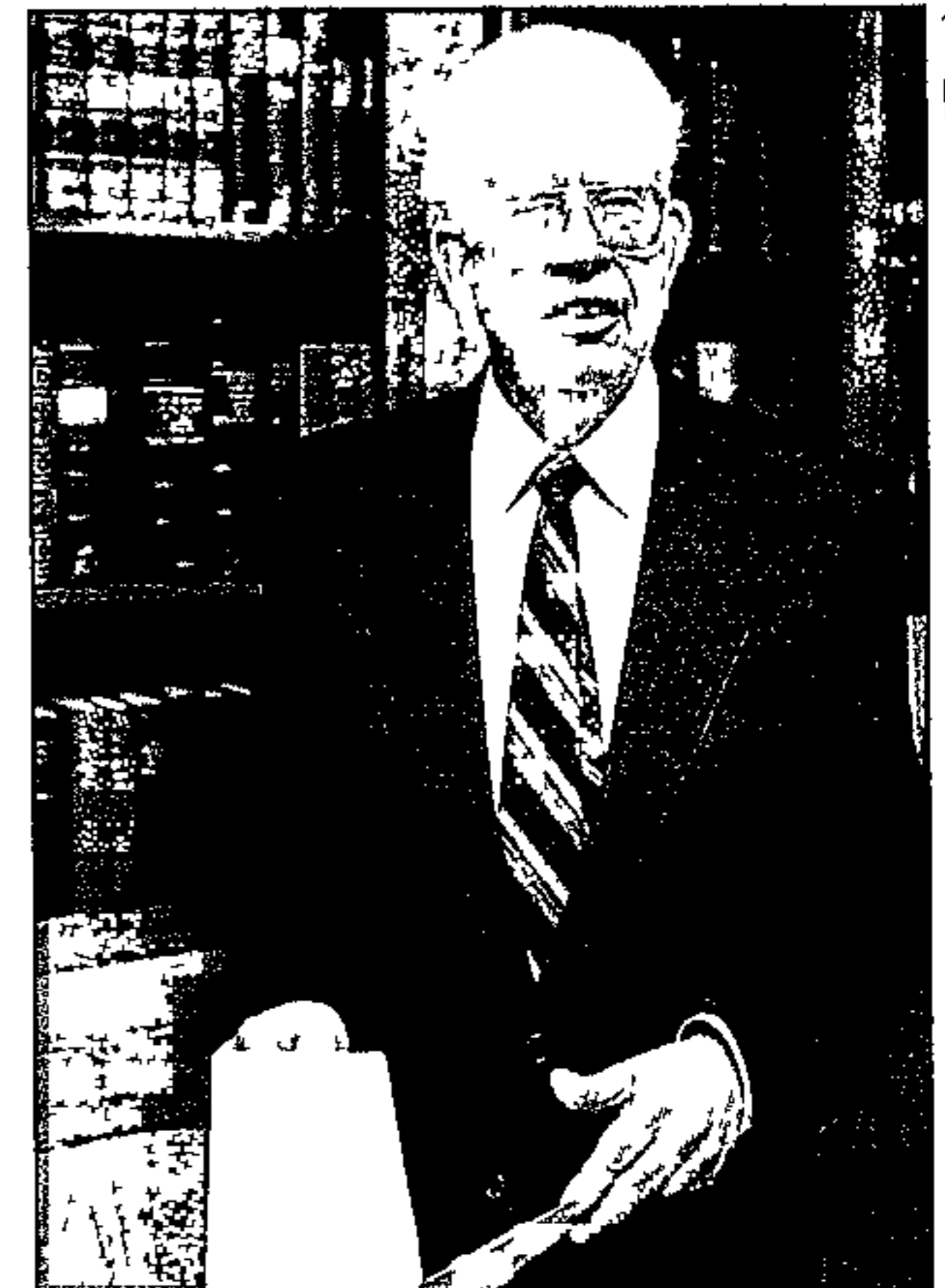
The problem here is an investment portfolio (including investments in associates) which accounts for 46% of total assets but provides a minimal return. This is compounded by the growing liquidity of the group, which ended the year with a net R56,8m in the bank, also providing min-

imal income.

If the investments and cash are excluded from the balance sheet, and the related income from the income statement, the picture changes considerably. The pre-interest return on the remaining total assets doubles to a more respectable 15%. An adjusted ROE is more difficult to calculate, but some idea of the effect of excluding these low-yielding investments and cash is obtained from the relationship of net income to capital employed, where the return would increase from 7,6% to almost 19%.

Notwithstanding the strategic importance of these investments to Perskor, the opportunity cost of holding them is high — and one cannot help wondering if it is not too high. For example, if the R453m now tied up in investments and in the bank was invested at a net return of even 10%, the attributable income would be R31m more than the R14m earned from these sources last year. Equity earnings would be about 395c (65%) higher than the 608c achieved.

And does Perskor really have to compound the problem by continuing with a highly restrictive dividend policy which is



Perskor chairman Koos Buitendag
highly restrictive dividend policy

P.T.O.

Please send me more information about Millennium Bonds from Standard Bank Offshore:

Name:

Address:

Code:

Post to Standard Bank Offshore
PO Box 583, St. Helier, Jersey JE4 8XR, Channel Islands
Tel 44 1534 67557 Fax 44 1534 23384 or contact
Terry Power Tel (011) 881-7040 Fax (011) 881-7042



With us you can go so much further

The Standard Bank of South Africa Limited (Registered Bank) Reg No 62/00738/06

SBSA 210398

FM 10/11/95

The editorship of the Sunday Times is up for grabs. **Reg Rumney** reports on the fight for the most powerful newspaper position in the country

THE battle is on for the most powerful newspaper position in the country: editor of the country's biggest paper, *The Sunday Times*

The choice of who will replace Ken Owen who will retire next year, is the subject of unbridled speculation, dinner party gossip and quiet competition among the circle of candidates

The result, when finally decided, is likely to surprise everyone

Succession in newspapers is never clear cut. Witness the surprise appointment by the then South African Associated Newspapers board of the selfsame Ken Owen as editor of *Business Day* in 1985 — and his equally surprising removal after only a few days, followed by an equally surprising reappointment about a year later

Owen, asked if he knew who his successor might be, replied laconically and finally "Why not ask the board?"

The board will have to focus its collective mind soon on the appointment of a successor to Owen. He is due to leave in the middle of next year, but an accumulation of leave will probably mean he will depart earlier

Times Media Limited managing director Roy Aulson could not be contacted for comment before going to press

Clearly, complicating the decision will be two factors

- The need to make good a worrying decline in circulation to a rumoured 65 000 from the long-established level of half a million copies.
 - A concerted campaign by members of the present government against white "liberal" editors
- Owen, observers believe, has created new credibility for the *Sunday Times*, and jacked up its political journalism, but the paper has not escaped the post-action slump in circulation faced by any English-language newspapers
- Owen's own analysis suggests that a leadership base, feel disempowered and uninterested. He has contrasted

the decline in English newspaper circulations with the comparative success of Afrikaans newspapers, indicating that their anti-government stance strikes a chord with their readers

The conundrum faced by the present owners is whether to return to the frothy, popular formula on which the *Sunday Times'* mass market appeal was built, to keep the paper on the present course set by Owen, or to take a radically different tack and go for the black market

The first would mean concentrating on gut-fee issues like crime, abortion, gossip, reviving the sex scandal-mongering back page and undressing back page girls whom Owen has covered up

Here the name of Rick Wilson, at present editor of the *Eastern Province Herald*, is listed as a strong candidate

Wilson is one of the *Sunday Times* old guard who flourished under former editor, the late Tertius Myburgh, the raconteur who ran a supposedly liberal paper which greeted the Botswana massacre by South African Defence Force soldiers of sleeping African National Congress supporters with the headline, "The guns of Gaborone"

If the paper is to continue on the strongly political, liberal, slightly more upmarket path it has followed so far, an internal appointment is possible

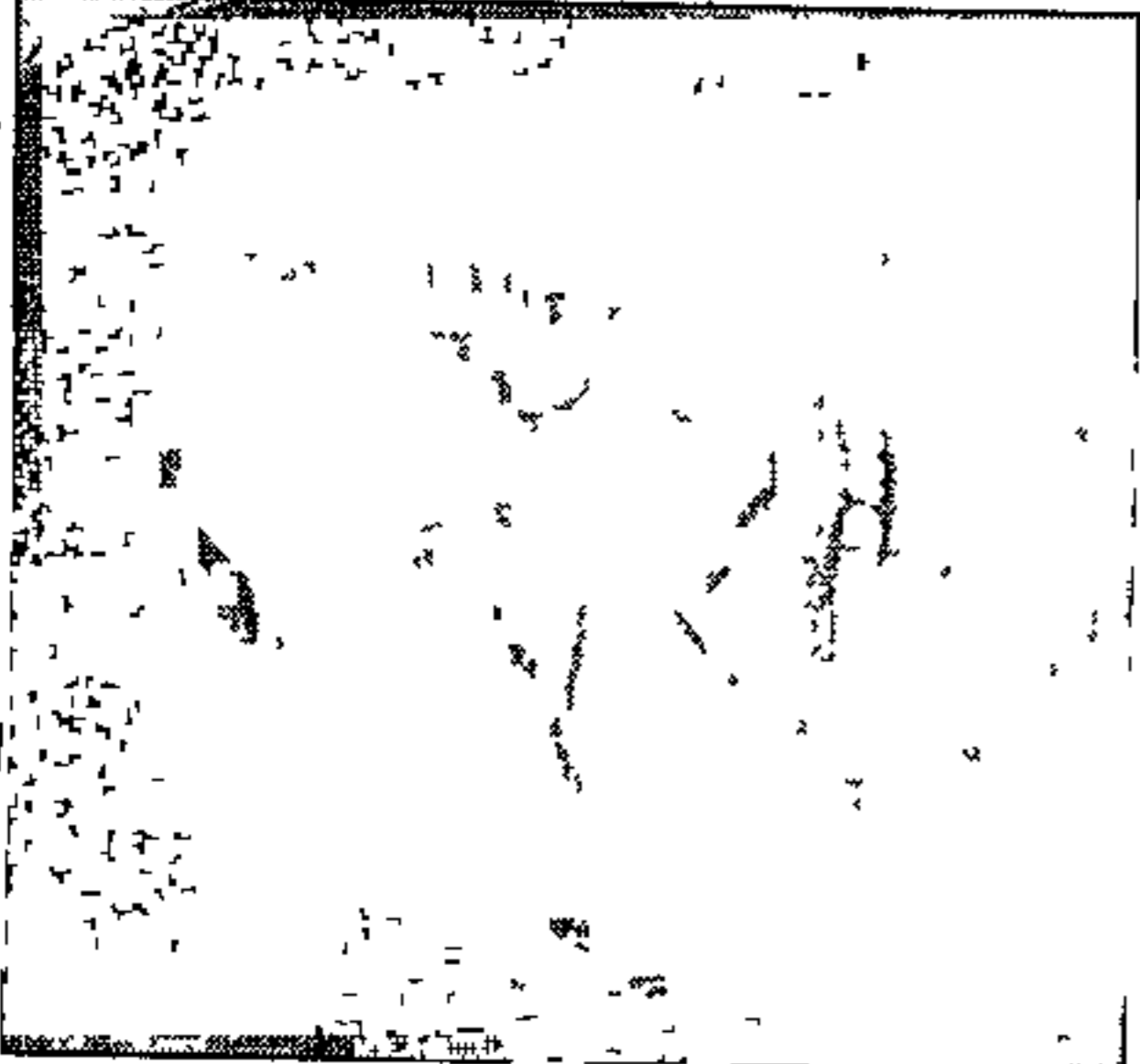
Internally, several candidates have been mentioned: *Business Day* editor Jim Jones and electronic media general manager Neil Jacobsohn

Ex-managing director of TML, temporarily in Australia, Steve Mulholland is due back in South Africa next year

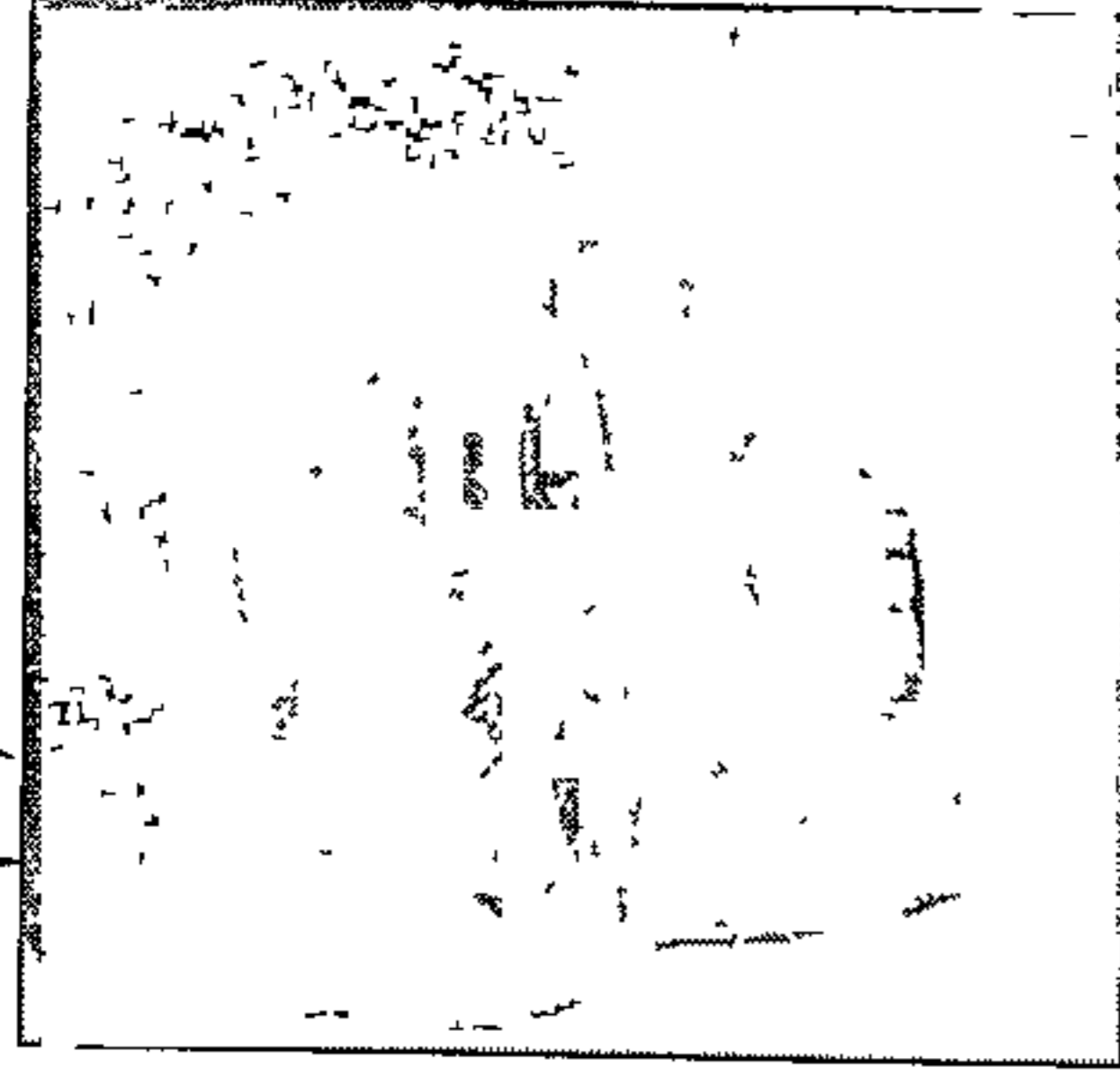
He too has been mentioned: Mulholland has an affinity for the *Times*, having served there as a reporter, and having founded the *Business Times*.

On the paper itself, two candidates are mentioned: deputy editor Brian Pottinger, a survivor of the Myburgh era, and Owen's protégé Mike Robertson

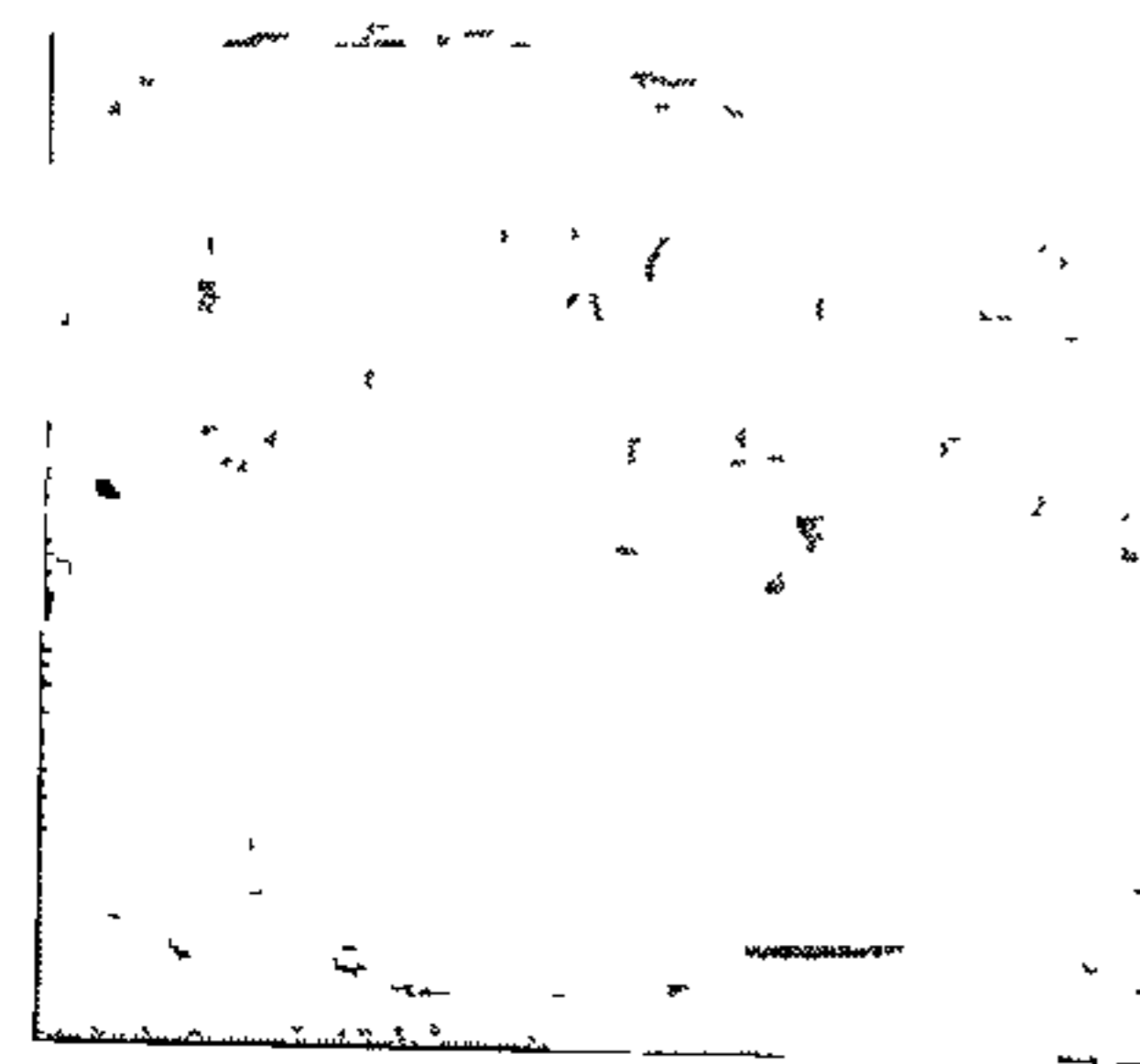
No one else in "Stab Alley", as the senior editorial offices are known, is



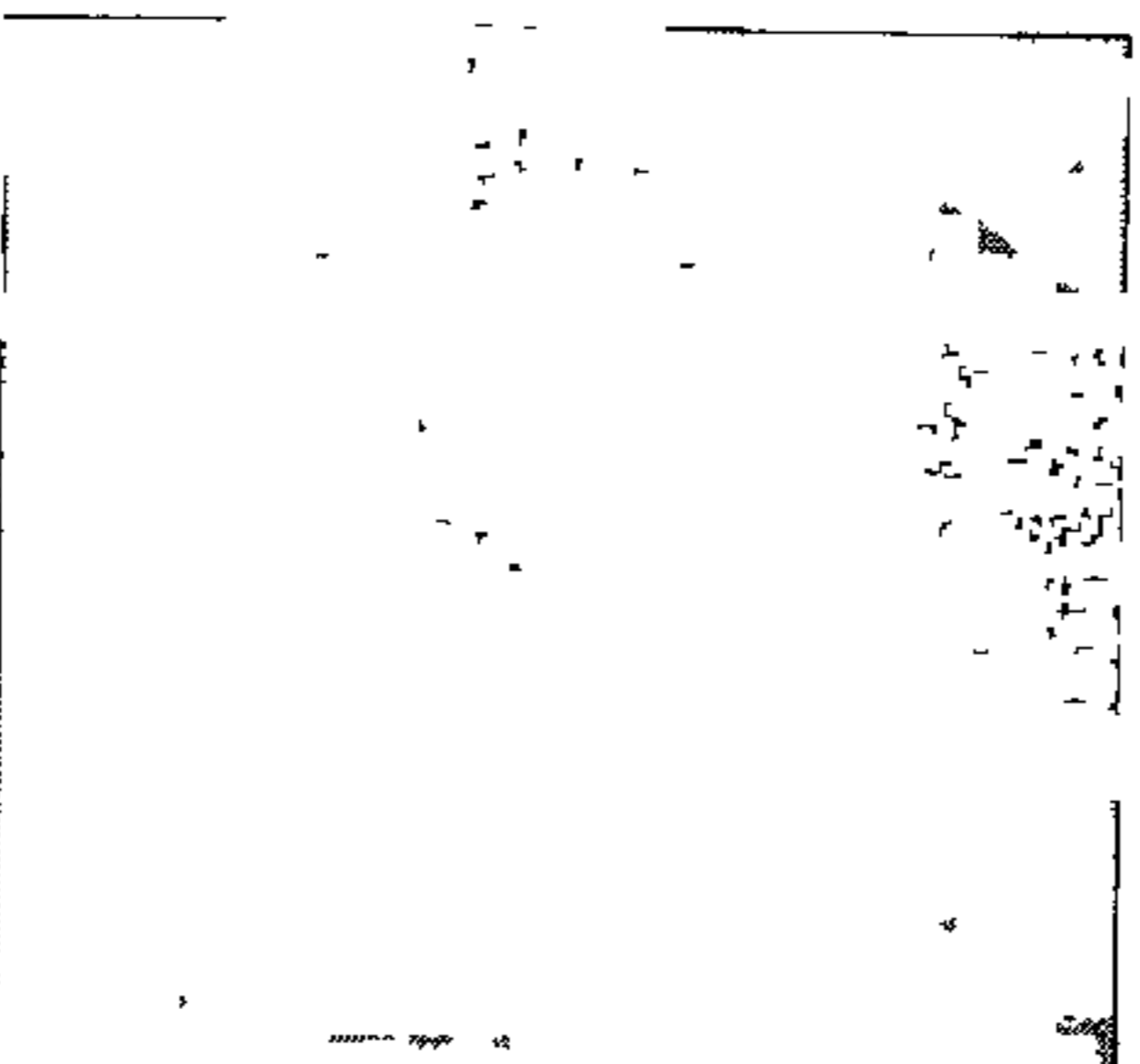
Jim Jones: Too businesslike?



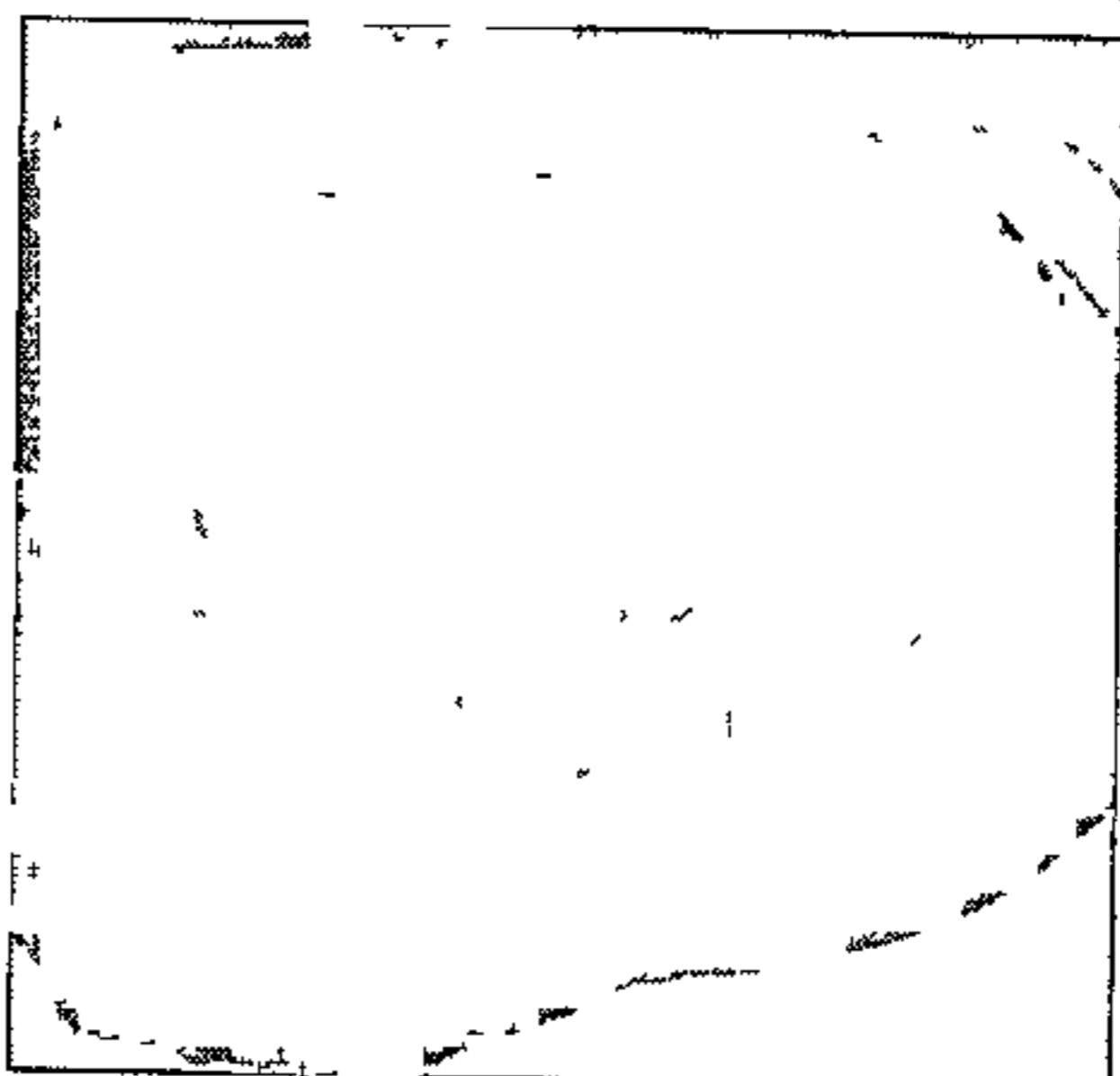
Rick Wilson: Too old guard?



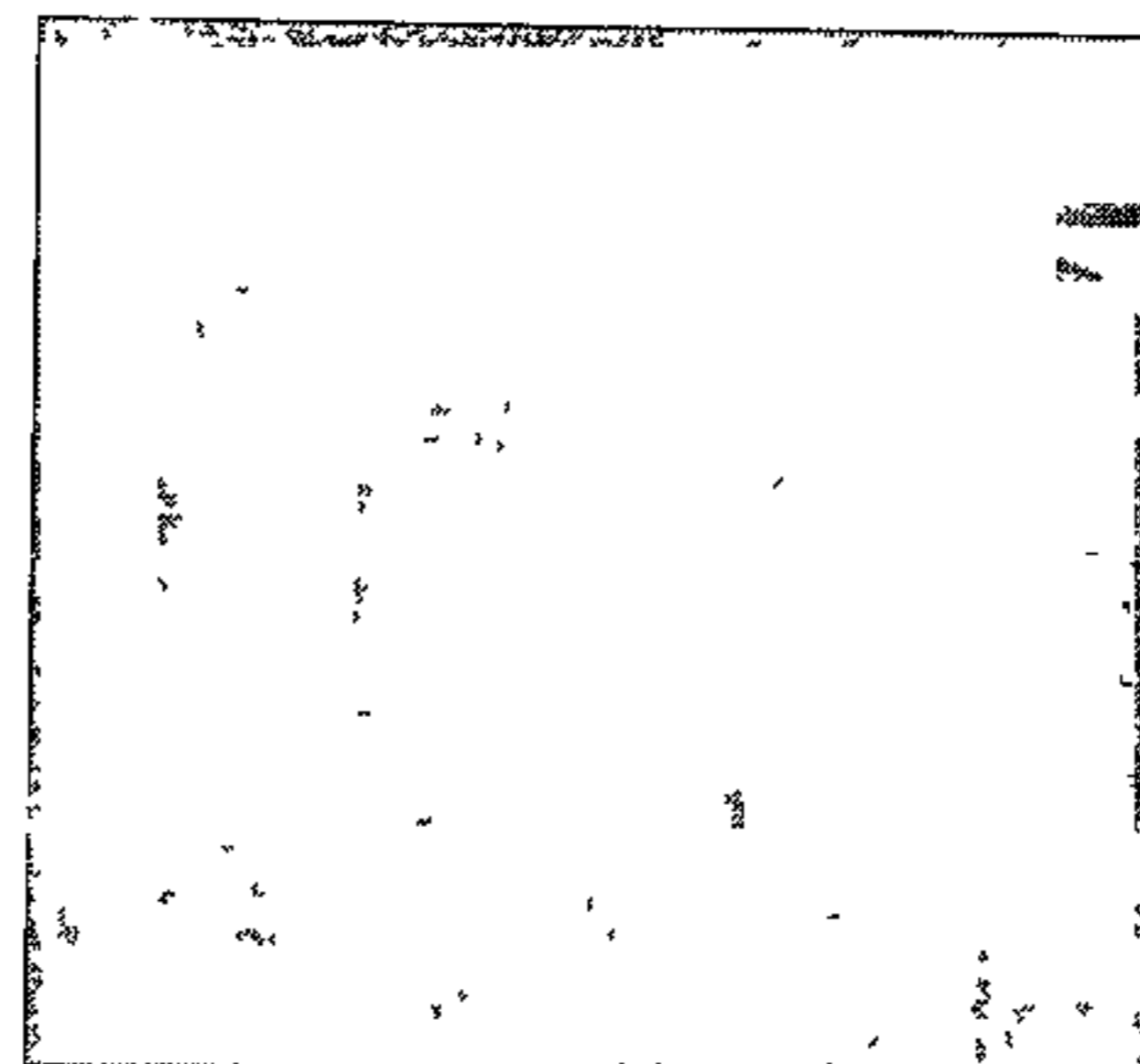
Brian Pottinger: Too long a deputy?



Thami Mazwai: Too black?



Mike Robertson: Not black enough?



Jon Qwelane: A dark horse?

suggested as a candidate: Deputies are seldom made editors and Robertson is reckoned by insiders to be inexperienced — and not black enough

The board must consider government pressure to replace mainly white editors of the mainstream press with blacks either under the erroneous impression that black editors will be less critical or to browbeat those white editors into toning down their criticism

The Thabo Mbeki inspired campaign has had Black Editors' Forum head and *Black Enterprise* editor Thami Mazwai as its stalking horse. Could he be a candidate?

Observers reckon Mazwai's anti-white rhetoric would alienate too many staffers, let alone readers. And could

the board, looking to the future black mass market take the chance of turning its back on the white market, and appoint an editor who will turn the *Sunday Times* into a 'black' newspaper?

A compromise would be a black editor who could run the *Sunday Times* along popular lines and take a strongly independent stance which would not offend white readers, while drawing in new black readers

This suggests one well-known candidate: Jon Qwelane editor of *Tribute*

Qwelane is maverick enough not to be identified too closely with any political party and to tackle tough issues in the combative, newsy style expected on a popular newspaper

He surprised blacks a

opened himself up to accusations of subverting black empowerment by exposing executive shenanigans at National Sorghum Breweries

One candidate whose name has come up is another successful Sunday paper editor: *City Press'* Khulu Sibya

Sibya was a surprise choice as editor but has managed to lift his paper's circulation significantly. However, his credibility took a knock when he resigned as convener of the Conference of Editors: citing it was proving impossible to unite editors across racial lines

Whoever the mainly white conservative board appoints will have to remember that ultimate control of TML, through Omni Media and, in turn, Johnnic, will soon be in black hands

Fallon promoted to top job at Independent Newspapers

Star 11/11/95 (243)

By KURT SWART

Independent Newspapers group editorial director Ivan Fallon was appointed deputy chief executive of the group yesterday.

Fallon retains his title as editorial director and will remain responsible for company diversification, including new titles and developments in electronic media. He is also a business columnist for the *Saturday Star's* sister newspaper, *The Sunday Independent*.

Fallon (51) joined the board of Independent Newspapers on November 1 1994 when he arrived in South Africa from London, where he was one of Britain's leading financial journalists.

In the past year he has been responsible for the launch of *Business Report*, the group's business section, which is carried in four titles across the country, and *Sunday Life* magazine.

He also played an important role in the conception of *The Sunday Independent*, the first

new newspaper of democratic SA.

Business Report now has a circulation of nearly 300 000 and includes a four-page Wall Street Journal section every Monday.

"We had a few problems with *Business Report* in the early days. It was a new product with new staff, using new technology," Fallon said yesterday.

"The staff under editor Jim Smith succeeded through incredible effort. *Business Report* is now a significant contributor to our group's profits."

Sales of *The Sunday Independent*, originally targeted at 30 000, have been consistently above that figure, and have increased each week for the past two months.

"The event that has given us more satisfaction than anything else is the reaction to the launch of *The Sunday Independent*,"



IVAN FALLON: Now deputy chief executive

Fallon said.

"Sceptics said you'll never find 30 000 people willing to pay R5 for such an upmarket product every Sunday, but considerably more than that are doing so.

"It is not only the first new paper launched in the new South Africa, but also the first newspaper that Independent Newspapers has launched anywhere in the world, and (chairman) Tony O'Reilly is probably more proud of it than any of his titles," Fallon said.

Fallon, based in Johannesburg, will continue to report directly to group chief executive John Featherstone.

In 1981, Fallon won the Wincott Award for outstanding contribution to financial journalism, and was Financial Journalist of the Year again in 1991.

One of his five books, *DeLorean, Life of a Dream-maker*, was the first ever business biography

to be a Book of the Month in the US. Two others (*The Saatchi & Saatchi Story* and *Billionaire, The Life and Times of Jimmy Goldsmith*) were best sellers in Britain. His most recent book was *The Player, The Life of Tony O'Reilly*.

Educated at St Peter's College, Wexford and Trinity College Dublin, where he graduated with a degree in business studies, he started his journalistic career on the Irish Times, before joining Thomson Newspapers in London in 1966.

Since then he has worked for most of the big Fleet Street papers, including the Daily Mirror, the Sunday Express and the Telegraph.

After Rupert Murdoch bought Times Newspapers, he brought Fallon in as deputy editor of *The Sunday Times*, a position he held for 10 years.

When Andrew Neil was seconded to Sky Television in 1989, Fallon was appointed acting editor of the paper, which has more than 200 journalists and a circulation of 1.4-million.

Advocate says defamation law must echo new democracy

By CARMEL RICKARD

ONE of South Africa's top advocates has strongly criticised the law on defamation, saying it is out of touch with the importance of freedom of expression in a democratic society.

Speaking at the influential International Bar Association conference in Johannesburg last week, Wim Trengove, SC, the director of the constitutional litigation unit at the Legal Resources Centre, said that the law of defamation was designed to strike a balance between freedom of expression and individual reputation.

However, the present balance was essentially the same as that fixed in the 17th century. Since then, there had been important changes in society and its values. It was incongruous to cling to the balance formulated in the days

before representative democracy and the mass media.

Referring to the defamation case brought by former police general Lothar Neethling against the *Vrye Weekblad* over allegations of involvement in hit squad activities, Mr Trengove said it clearly illustrated how the present common law balance between freedom of expression and the protection of an individual's reputation was "out of keeping with the values of our society and our constitution".

General Neethling lost his action in the Supreme Court but was later vindicated in the Appeal Court, where it was ruled that the common law on defamation protected the general Justice Gus Hoexter, who

wrote the decision for the Appeal Court noted that a newspaper "elects to vilify the plaintiff entirely of its own accord. Therefore justice demanded that it should publish 'at its peril' if the paper is subsequently sued, the paper would have to 'establish what (it) should have troubled to verify before (it) malign[ed] the plaintiff'".

Commenting on this decision, Mr Trengove said, "Let us assume that *Vrye Weekblad* had exhausted all its sources of verification and that there was no more that it could do to check its story. Why should it be exposed to liability even after taking all the care that a reasonable newspaper would?"

"Is it appropriate that it should be told that the only way to avoid the risk of massive civil liability is not to exercise rea-

sonable care, but rather, not to publish at all?"

He said as long as the law gave this message to the media it would have a "chilling effect" on the publication of matters of public interest.

The law recognised that political debate ought to be free from the fear of defamation action, and therefore extended an absolute privilege to what is said in Parliament.

Mr Trengove argued that it made no sense for this protection from defamation to be limited to political debate within Parliament, and that it should be extended to cover "the political debate in society itself".

He said it would be in keeping with the values of society and the constitution to recognise that the media fulfilled a special function demanding special rules.

243 ST 12/11/95

Mr Trengove said it was not clear why, when two fundamental values — an individual's right to reputation, and freedom of the press — had to be balanced, it should be done in a way that was "so generous in its protection of the one and so meagre in its protection of the other".

Mr Trengove's address to the International Bar Association session on freedom of expression and defamation, came the day after the Constitutional Court heard its first press freedom and defamation case.

One of the issues argued in that case is which court should have jurisdiction to oversee changes to the common law on defamation — the Appeal Court, whose judges have been responsible for a series of decisions constricting press freedom, or the new Constitutional Court?



NEETHLING SUCCESSFULLY APPEALED AGAINST A DEFAMATION RULING



NEED FOR CHANGE . . . Wim Trengove says that the law on defamation in South Africa is outdated

Press tests its freedom

By CARMEL RICKARD

THE first media case to be heard by the Constitutional Court went into injury time this week — yet the issue of press freedom was barely touched upon in almost six hours of debate.

Under the constitution, freedom of the press is specifically guaranteed for the first time. Many observers hoped Tuesday's case would mark the start of a new era in which the court would finally recognise the role of the media in modern society, and formulate an appropriate doctrine on defamation.

However, instead of listening to phrases about press freedom being a "fixed star in our constitutional constellation", as courts in the US have held, the 11 judges grilled counsel on three technical questions.

Businessman Gert de Klerk is claiming R750 000 damages for himself and R5-million for his company, Wonder Air, from The Pretoria News following a series of articles and a cartoon about South African companies which might have illegally supplied arms and ammunition to Unita during Angola's civil war.

According to Mr de Klerk, the articles say he and Wonder Air were involved in

these activities, and that, by implication, he is dishonest, prepared to act immorally for personal gain and willing to make huge profits out of the suffering of the Angolan people. He says none of this is true, and that his good name was tarnished by the allegations.

The Pretoria News denies defaming Mr de Klerk, or making the allegations about him. It says the Angolan civil war was covered extensively by the South African media, including claims that the South African government had been involved, directly or indirectly, in helping Unita.

During March 1993, officials of the South African Department of Foreign Affairs called private air operators together and told them of their suspicions that individual companies might be helping fuel the war. The newspaper said it gave Mr de Klerk an opportunity to respond to its reports reflecting what had happened in these meetings, and to subsequent claims by Angola that Wonder Air was flying supplies to Unita in late 1993.

The newspaper says it had a duty to inform readers of these developments and that it was therefore not unlawful to have published the articles and cartoon.

Some months after the initial claim and reply were filed in the Supreme Court, the

paper asked to modify its plea, as the new constitution had come into operation in the interim. The newspaper now also wanted to appeal for the protections offered by the constitutional guarantees of press freedom.

Mr Justice Kees van Dijkhorst rejected the application, saying the constitution applied only to relations between the state and the individual, not to individuals in civil litigation. He also said the newspaper could not rely on a law which did not exist at the time.

The newspaper asked that the issue be referred to the Constitutional Court.

This week the Constitutional Court, which has reserved judgement, wanted to hear argument on three issues.

● Did the constitution apply horizontally as well as vertically, that is, was it directly applicable in the dispute between the paper and Mr de Klerk?

● Did it apply to a civil case in which the dispute arose before the constitution came into force?

● Did the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein have jurisdiction to develop the common law — which governs the law of defamation — in accordance with the spirit of the constitution? If so, should the case have gone to the Appeal Court rather

than the Constitutional Court?

Counsel for Mr de Klerk, Johan Kruger SC, and Professor Johann van der Westhuizen said that the constitution would not apply directly to such a dispute between private individuals. However, the common law on defamation could be shaped over time by the courts with "due regard to the spirit" of the Bill of Rights.

They said that at the time Mr de Klerk decided to sue, the constitution was not yet in place and he was entitled to have his claim heard under the law as it existed when he launched his case. They also argued that the Appeal Court had the right to oversee the development of the common law in the spirit of the constitution.

Counsel for the Pretoria News, Gilbert Marcus, said the newspaper was entitled to have its constitutional rights protected in any trial held after the constitution came into effect, including this one. If the court were to hold otherwise it would have severely unjust results, he said.

Press freedom was raised directly only once when Professor van der Westhuizen discussed the weight which should be given to freedom of the press compared with the right to privacy and a good reputation. The court, however, quickly brought him back to technical issues.

(243) ST12/1995

Print media

opposes IBA

By CHIARA CARTER

213 (350)

SOUTH AFRICA's major newspaper groups have declared their opposition to further restrictions on the involvement of the print media in radio and television broadcasting.

Nasionale Pers, Independent Newspapers, and Times Media Limited, all of whom are members of the Print Media Association, have backed the association's objections to regulations proposed by the Independent Broadcasting Authority's "Triple Board of Inquiry".

The board's proposals include a recommendation that any person who controls a newspaper should be prevented from acquiring financial control of both a radio and a television licence.

In a submission this week to the parliamentary

ST 12/11/95
committee considering the board's proposals, the association said the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act of 1993 adequately regulated cross-media ownership.

The association said it accepted the need for "intelligent regulation of broadcast ownership", but it believed the proposed limit of a 15 percent shareholding in a broadcasting licence was unacceptably low. The IBA Act allows for a limit of 25 percent.

The PMA also opposed a recommendation that any person who controls a newspaper read by more than 15 percent of readers in an area should not be allowed to control a radio or television licence which overlapped with the paper's circulation area.

The PMA said if the proposals were adopted, it might challenge them in the Constitutional Court.

'We will get blacker in time'

(243) CP 12/11/95

SOUTH AFRICA did not need a society of yes-men, Nasionale Pers chairman Ton Vosloo said this week in reaction to claims that his newspaper group tended to be negative toward the government.

"The test of democracy is the right to disagree with one another," he told the parliamentary communications portfolio committee in Pretoria on Wednesday.

"We don't need a society in the future of a lot of 'ja-broers', as we may have had in the past."

A committee member had earlier accused newspapers, especially those of Nasionale Pers, of painting a negative picture of the government, saying they focused on "gravy train" allega-

tions while ignoring the "gravy jumbo jet" the previous government had travelled in.

This was denied by Vosloo, who said: "We can go into our files and bring you numerous stories where we tore into the previous government when they abused the taxpayers' money."

Committee chairman Saki Macozoma said there were allegations of editorial decisions by *Die Burger*, a Naspers daily newspaper in Cape Town, being aimed at preventing the African National Congress from being put in too good a light.

Naspers's claim that it did not interfere with editorial decisions did not hold water, he said.

"The question is: what is go-

ing to be done with the print media to address the fact that these resources are controlled by a particular group in society, which has a different world view altogether from the rest of us?"

Vosloo reacted by saying Naspers had a full-blown policy of affirmative action and no discrimination.

"Yes, we probably have too many white males in the top echelons, but our board already reflects South Africa in part," he said. "Two of our 12 board members are black."

Laughter from some committee members prompted Vosloo to add: "It is a start. You must remember where we come from. We have our own culture that

was put together to reflect a certain viewpoint."

On ownership of the company, he said it had shareholders in all sectors. Control rested with them, and should not be imposed by the state.

Vosloo said Naspers intended to sell 51 percent of the shares in its weekly black newspaper City Press to blacks. This was measureable advancement because it meant that the newspaper would belong to blacks.

"My philosophy is that we will not have full democracy until and unless the majority of the people in this country own mainstream media," Vosloo said.

"There should be main media players from the disadvantaged group" - Sapa

ARTICLE

Naspers shareholders back restructuring

(243) BD 13/11/95

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — Nearly all Nasionale Pers (Naspers) shareholders gave the go-ahead to the group's restructuring plans at an extraordinary shareholders' meeting on Friday.

As a result of the restructuring, the 50% interest unlisted pyramid company Nasionale Pers Beherend held in Naspers will in future also be traded directly by the company's shareholders on the JSE.

Naspers executive chairman Ton Vosloo told shareholders he was aware that the restructuring had drawn criticism in some quarters, but these views had been taken into account in the restructuring and much of the criticism had been uninformed.

A company spokesman said shareholders representing just less than 80-million shares had approved the re-

structuring. One shareholder holding 20 000 shares, representing 0,025% of the total, notably the Protea Pension Fund, had voted against the move because of a technical default.

Vosloo said the creation of Beherend at the time of Naspers's listing in September last year was a mechanism through which control of the group could be ensured. However, the unlisted Beherend shares had started trading at a discount because of the tender system of trading.

Since Naspers's listing, JSE rules had changed and the group had decided to follow the route whereby the extent of control could be effected through the voting rights accorded certain classes of shares.

The special shareholders' meeting for Beherend was postponed until November 20 because too few attended to form a quorum.

Banning books will become difficult

Wyndham Hartley

(243)

BN 13/11/95

extreme violence.

CAPE TOWN — New publication laws which will make it more difficult to ban films and books, and which will replace the infamous Publications Control Board, were tabled in Parliament last week.

The Films and Publications Bill says specifically that the protection of race relations and state security should reside with the law courts, not a state board.

The new measures seek to protect children from pornography by the implementation of age restrictions and packaging rather than banning. "Bona fide" artistic and scientific works will be protected and may be restricted only through age limitations.

Distribution of material to adults will be restricted only in the case of child pornography, certain mixtures of sex and violence, bestiality and ex-

Distribution to adults will be prohibited also where a publication, as a whole, promotes hatred against the religious convictions of a section of the population. Bona fide religious works will be exempted.

The legislation is based on the deliberations of a task group appointed by Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi. The task group considered about 1 600 representations from the public and interested organisations.

It decided current legislation "regulates the domain of the adult too strenuously", infringed on the freedom of adults to make a choice, was too vague and was subject to abuse.

Introduced by Deputy Home Affairs Minister Penuell Maduna the legislation will be presented to the portfolio committee on home affairs before being placed before the National Assembly and Senate in the new year.



Sentrachem Limited

(Registration number 67/02258/06)
(Registered in the Republic of South Africa)
("Sentrachem")

International share issue

Naspers shake up goes smoothly

BY MAGGIE ROWLEY

Cape Town — Shareholders of Nasionale Pers overwhelmingly approved the restructuring of the listed company and its unlisted pyramid, Nasionale Pers Beherend, at a special meeting on Friday.

The restructuring had sparked heated debate in some quarters about pyramid control and whether minority rights were being infringed. There was even speculation that minority shareholders, including institutions, would put a spanner in the works at Friday's meeting.

But this was not the case. A confident Naspers chairman, Ton Vosloo, opened the meeting armed with proxies representing 79 percent of the issued share capital in support of the restructuring.

Vosloo's proxies included all the major shareholders, of which Servgro is the largest. Only one shareholder, representing 0,025 percent of the equity, opposed the scheme.

No dissension emerged from the two dozen or so shareholders who packed the 18th floor boardroom of Naspers' Cape Town headquarters.

All three resolutions pertaining to the restructuring were aimed at unlocking value for shareholders and entrenching the group's control to stave off any potentially hostile takeover.



CONFIDENT Ton Vosloo, the chairman of Naspers

The three resolutions were passed unanimously from the floor.

The only minor hiccup was over the special meeting of the pyramid company that was to follow. It had to be postponed until November 20 because the quorum required by the Companies Act was not present.

Vosloo said company deliberations had considered criticisms of the scheme. But much of the criticism had been uninformed and based on factually incorrect information, he said.

The pyramid company was created to ensure control of the group when Naspers was listed in September last year.

Shares in Beherend were sold by tender, Vosloo said this had proved

CT(BE) 13/11/95

243
to be an inefficient instrument. Beherend's shares are trading on the JSE at a considerable discount to the Naspers shares.

Vosloo said that in terms of amendments to JSE rules since the listing of Naspers, control could now be effected through different voting rights accorded different classes of shares.

Naspers is pursuing this route by creating a new class of shares known as A ordinary shares.

Each A share will have 1000 votes, compared with one vote for existing shares. The existing shares will be known in future as N ordinary shares.

The new shares will only be eligible for dividends no higher than 20 percent of those paid to N ordinary shareholders.

Crowther said after the meeting that institutional shareholders had indicated they would all be taking up their rights in N shares, receiving 100 N ordinary shares in Naspers for every 100 shares they held in Beherend.

Nasionale Pers Beleggings, a wholly owned subsidiary of Beherend, will take up all its rights in A shares.

Beherend will then be collapsed. Beleggings will be controlled by Newco, a wholly owned subsidiary of Naspers, by way of 49 percent of the votes in Beleggings through the A shares.

Naspers shake up goes smoothly

Nov 13/11/95 (243)

BY MAGGIE ROWLEY

Cape Town — Shareholders of Nasionale Pers overwhelmingly approved the restructuring of the listed company and its unlisted pyramid, Nasionale Pers Beherend, at a special meeting on Friday.

The restructuring had sparked heated debate in some quarters about pyramid control and whether minority rights were being infringed. There was even speculation that minority shareholders, including institutions, would put a spanner in the works at Friday's meeting.

But this was not the case. A confident Naspers chairman, Ton Vosloo, opened the meeting armed with proxies representing 79 percent of the issued share capital in support of the restructuring.

Vosloo's proxies included all the major shareholders, of which Servgro is the largest. Only one shareholder, representing 0,025 percent of the equity, opposed the scheme.

No dissension emerged from the two dozen or so shareholders who packed the 18th floor boardroom of Naspers' Cape Town headquarters.

All three resolutions pertaining to the restructuring were aimed at unlocking value for shareholders and entrenching the group's control to stave off any potentially hostile takeover.



CONFIDENT Ton Vosloo, the chairman of Naspers

The three resolutions were passed unanimously from the floor.

The only minor hiccup was over the special meeting of the pyramid company that was to follow. It had to be postponed until November 20 because the quorum required by the Companies Act was not present.

Vosloo said company deliberations had considered criticisms of the scheme. But much of the criticism had been uninformed and based on factually incorrect information, he said.

The pyramid company was created to ensure control of the group when Naspers was listed in September last year.

Shares in Beherend were sold by tender. Vosloo said this had proved

to be an inefficient instrument. Beherend's shares are trading on the JSE at a considerable discount to the Naspers shares.

Vosloo said that in terms of amendments to JSE rules since the listing of Naspers, control could now be effected through different voting rights accorded different classes of shares.

Naspers is pursuing this route by creating a new class of shares known as A ordinary shares.

Each A share will have 1000 votes, compared with one vote for existing shares. The existing shares will be known in future as N ordinary shares.

The new shares will only be eligible for dividends no higher than 20 percent of those paid to N ordinary shareholders.

Crowther said after the meeting that institutional shareholders had indicated they would all be taking up their rights in N shares, receiving 100 N ordinary shares in Naspers for every 100 shares they held in Beherend.

Nasionale Pers Beleggings, a wholly owned subsidiary of Beherend, will take up all its rights in A shares.

Beherend will then be collapsed. Beleggings will be controlled by Newco, a wholly owned subsidiary of Naspers, by way of 49 percent of the votes in Beleggings through the A shares.

By BRUCE CAMERON

TML's operating profit up by a third

(243) BD 15/11/95

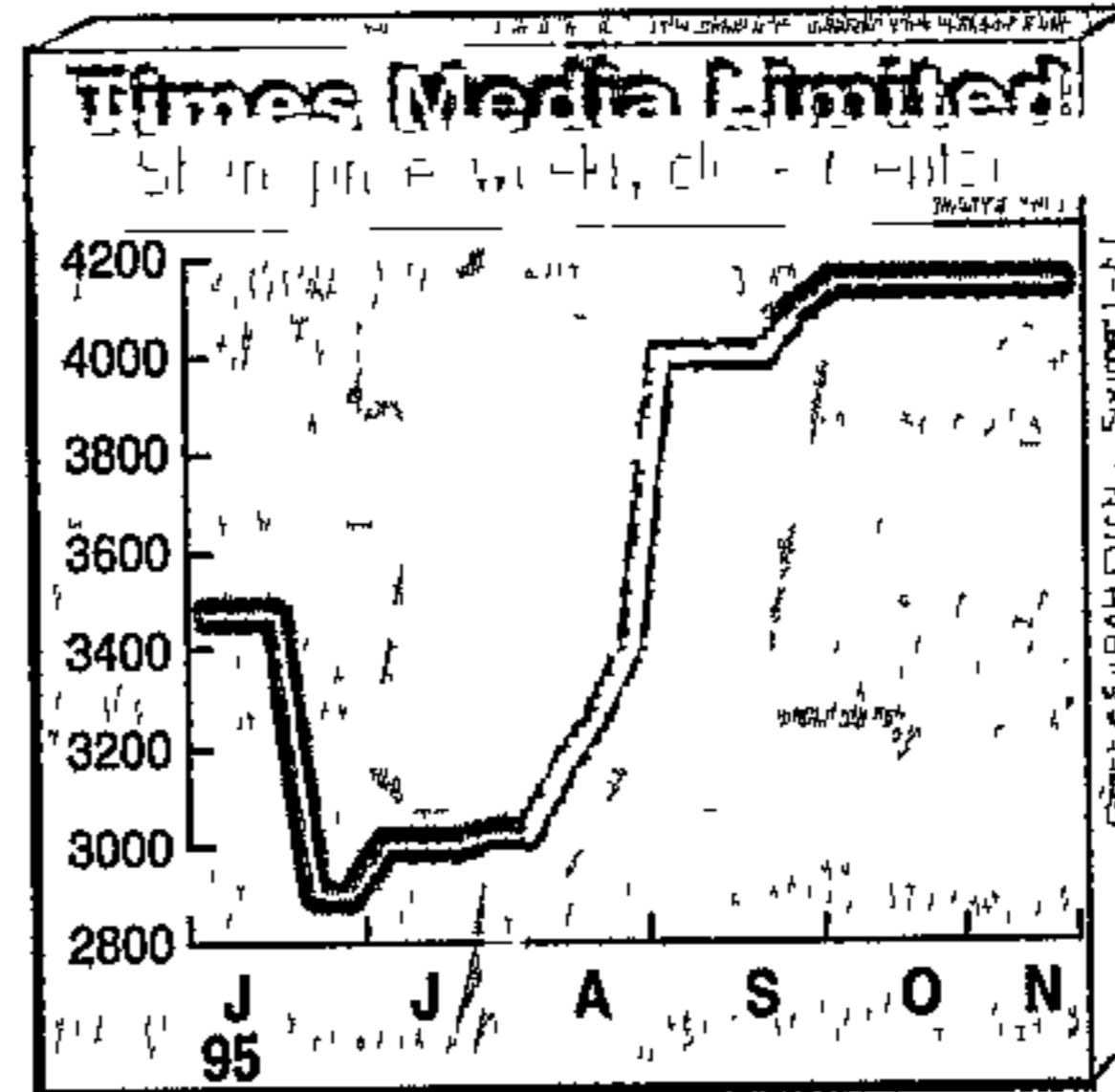
Adrienne Gillomee

TIMES Media Ltd (TML), the publisher of Business Day, lifted its operating profit a third in the six months to September 30 but suffered a drop in attributable income as non-trading income fell from an abnormally high level in the corresponding period of 1994.

The first half's turnover was 16% ahead at R249,9m (1994.R215,5m), propelled by a 20% advance in advertising revenue. Operating profit climbed 33% to R38,3m (R28,7m), based on a strong performance from core publishing operations.

Earnings excluding non-trading items grew to 139c from 74c a share. An unchanged interim dividend of 28c a share has been declared.

The group's core publishing business — Business Day, Sunday Times and Financial Mail — contributed R36,1m of the period's R38,3m operating profit. Strong circulation growth was recorded by Business Day and the Eastern Province Herald, with unau-



dated circulation figures indicating Business Day's current circulation was more than 37 500, or 6% higher than a year ago. Circulation revenues were helped by higher cover prices, but were affected by a decline in the Sunday Times's circulation. Advertising volumes grew 12%.

Continued on Page 2

TML

(243)

BD 15/11/95

Continued from Page 1

Profit from non-trading items dropped from R39,9m to R9,3m. Chairman Vaughn Bray said although TML made R10,5m profit from its sale of a portion of M-Net shares to Phuthuma Investments, the comparative figure for last year had included the R41,4m profit on the sale of TML's interests in Natal Newspapers, Pretoria News, the Cape Joint Operating Agreement and the Cape Times.

Parent company Omni Media Corporation and TML are considering a rationalisation scheme which would result in TML transferring all its shares in MNH Holdings, M-Net, MultiChoice and M-Cell to Omni. An announcement is expected soon.

Losses from associated companies were R2,2m lower than last year's and included substantial losses from MultiChoice. No losses from MultiChoice were accounted for after the writing down of this investment to nil in March. Total expenditure was 13% higher due to the raised level of activ-

ity, increased newsprint usage resulting from higher advertising volumes and increased editorial and production costs during the conversion to electronic page makeup systems in the Gauteng division.

In the magazine division, a sharp drop in Playboy's circulation was attributed to the "unsettled situation" in the men's magazine market. TML financial director Lawrence Clarke said the group would manage the magazine through the trough in the cycle. The magazine division, which was set to launch its new adventure magazine Out There, recorded an interim loss of R100 000 (R300 000).

Continued improvements in the results from wire service I-Net and Trade Information Services were reflected in the reduced losses — R300 000 against R800 000 — from electronic media.

The acquisition of 80% in Dispatch Media, making it a wholly owned subsidiary, will be included only in the annual financial statements, as the deal came into effect on October 1.

Clarke said trading levels in the second half of the year were expected to show continued improvement as the economy maintained its growth.

THERE is an aphorism about a philosopher who was walking with a companion down a busy street when their stroll was interrupted by a rowdy argument. The fracas involved two people who were shouting at each other from the upstairs windows of houses on opposite sides of the street. "Those two will never agree," the philosopher said confidently. "Why not?" his companion asked because they are arguing from different premises," the philosopher said. Something of the same conundrum exists in the recent spate of arguments between senior members of the ANC and the Press. In a sense, political parties and the Press can never be completely satisfied with what they get from each other. If one side or the other was ever satisfied, then something would be seriously amiss.

But the fervour of the current debate suggests a gulf so wide that there is cause for concern. When criticism of the Press first arose, I was amazed that the ANC could seriously argue it was getting a bad press.

Foreign journalists constantly lecture us on how timid we are. Opposition parties constantly complain about how the Press treats the ANC more favourably than it does them, as though a different set of values is at work. What criticism there is seems fairly mild, especially considering the huge gulfs that exist in SA society as a whole.

How is it possible that journalists can think the ANC is getting a good press (by and large) while at the same time senior members of the party believe the opposite? How can experienced journalists and veteran politicians be operating on such different wavelengths?

This question is not easy to answer, especially as the ANC is frustratingly vague in its critique. One of the general complaints seems to be that the news is skewed by reporters who do not share the "life experiences" of ordinary South

A journalist's last few words before his execution

TIM COHEN in Cape Town

15/11/95

(243)

Africans. ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa asks, for example: "Do the life experiences of most journalists and editors enable them to understand the importance of delivering water to people who have never had access to it before?" (Business Day, November 8).

Arguments are also made on questions of ownership of the Press, but this is an issue for the management of newspapers to address (as they have been doing). There is also some criticism of certain editorial decisions concerning the local government elections.

But the real issue lies elsewhere. What seems to irk ANC members most is their belief that the majority of senior political reporters, most of whom are white, middle-class men, set the political agenda in SA and tend to be negative, hostile and unresponsive to what party members see as the information needs of SA citizenry. As one of the "endangered species" in question, I wish to make a few remarks before my execution.

Firstly, as to the central charge, I plead guilty. It cannot seriously be disputed that the personal background of reporters, including race, gender and class, influences their decisions on how news is presented.

Of course, good reporters are able to imagine the life circumstances of other people and reflect their plights accurately. The capacity to conceive of another's predicament is, after all, a peculiarly human trait — even a politician earning, say, R423 000 a year, has the capacity to feel something for the predicament of poor, working-class people.

Secondly, what criticism there has been has come from journalists of all races, all classes and both sexes. It was not the "white" Press that pursued most strongly allegations that money from the President's Children's Fund was removed from the African Bank just before it was closed; it was the Sowetan. And the opposite is also true: some of the most plainly toadying pieces of "sunshine" journalism and editorialising seen in the recent past have been written by white male journalists under the oversight of white male editors.

Thirdly, and most importantly, the critical character of the SA Press (such as it is) derives more from its history of opposition to apartheid than from the make-up of the journalists involved — and this is a tradition that must not be lost.

The vast majority of political

journalists active today might not have made anything like the kinds of sacrifices thousands of South Africans made, or suffered the kind of hardships many more endured. But many journalists did what they could in difficult circumstances. They operated in an extraordinary legislative environment with nervous advertisers, sometimes brave (sometimes not-so-brave) editors and, most of all, a quite deranged government manned mainly by people hostile to most of the Press.

In the process of dealing at close quarters with this kind of government, they built a tradition of what is now termed "negativity". In short, they learned that governments can be unthinkingly brutal and comprehensively callous.

Members of the present government might think of themselves as fundamentally different, but a valuable tradition of "the journalist as societal watchdog" has developed

What is more, this tradition is expanding fast. Always evident in the black Press, it has quickly incorporated the Afrikaans Press and is now evident even on the outer fringes of the SABC.

This tradition must be preserved, even if it offends the delicate sensibilities of some members of government. There is, after all, something so "old South African" about Press bashing. I can just see that famous finger wagging again.

The strangest thing about the ANC's criticism of the Press is that it comes at a time when the party has just reconfirmed its status as by far the most powerful political force in the country. If the Press is being so negative, why isn't the ANC losing support?

Perhaps this is not strange at all. Perhaps the ANC is critical of the Press precisely because it feels itself to be politically unchallengeable. Perhaps we are seeing the beginnings of Mugabe-style state arrogance and dictatorship.

Oh dear, there I go again. Just being negative as usual.

growing economy and costs which were contained to an increase of 13%, margins widened from 13,3% to 15,3%, feeding the one-third gain in operating profit

The first half nontrading profit of R9,3m reflects the sale of M-Net shares to Phutuma Investments, to spread the pay-TV investment among black shareholders. This full profit of R10,5m was offset by a R1,2m charge for the amortisation of titles.

Earnings from associates were spared the R14,4m loss recorded at year-end as profits from East London's *Daily Dispatch* newspaper, fully owned by TML since the interim, offset development losses from cellphone operator M-Cell.

The investment in MultiChoice has been written down to nil, protecting TML's earnings base from continuing development losses in Europe.

But these investments will soon be transferred to 92% controlling shareholder Omni Media Corp. That will result in a nontrading, one-off loss for the full year as the book value of the investments (they have a market value of about R750m), is effectively given to Omni.

Minority shareholders will be compensated with equivalent shares or cash. In the short term, this will cost TML the write-off of the investment as well as compensation to option holders and professional fees.

Financial director Lawrence Clark cites longer-term benefits. The unbundling of the M-Net, MultiChoice and M-Cell investments (TML recently spent R52,5m following its rights in M-Cell's cash call) should unlock value in TML's share.

These investments now account for about R37,50 of TML's share price of R41,50. That puts TML on an implied P/E for its publishing interests of about two times.

The share price could appreciate as soon as the market sees the low value placed on the publications. Though TML's price has already made significant gains on thin volumes, better liquidity would also help. Omni has indicated it will reduce its shareholding in TML, probably to a spread of black shareholders, while retaining control.

Clark says the removal of the pay-TV and cellphone interests will allow management to focus on the publications without distraction. Shareholders will have the flexibility to invest directly in TML as an almost pure publishing investment or in the TV or cell-

TIMES MEDIA

Trading surge

(243)
FM 17/11/95

A strong performance by Times Media (TML)'s managed operations is again apparent in first-half results. But nontrading items, previously disclosed as extraordinary items but now included in pre-tax profits in line with revised accounting standards, took the shine off the 37% advance from normal trading profits.

To show sustainable earnings, normal trading operations have been distinguished from nontrading items. EPS excluding these nontrading items increased by 88%. Including the nontrading items, EPS declined 28% to 191c.

At operating level, strong 20% growth in advertising revenue was largely behind the 16% rise in turnover. With benefits from the

phone interests

With trading expected to resume the pace of the first half, full-year results should remain on track, despite costs associated with the launch of two magazines and possibly other ventures.

Clarity on TML's new shareholding structure will probably add attraction for investors.

Shaun Harris

Naspers approves sale of City Press

Jacqueline Zaina

BD 21/11/95

(243)

NASIONALE Pers was in talks to sell 51% of weekend newspaper City Press to a black consortium, the group said yesterday

Chairman Ton Vosloo said that talks with one group were at an advanced stage, and that shares were also likely to be offered to other black investors in a low-cost entry scheme similar to that recently employed by M-Net

He refused to name the consortium involved, though sources said Thebe Investments could be a strong contender. Vosloo said Corporate Africa Holdings was not in the running, while both Real Africa Investments and Kagiso Trust declined to comment.

Vosloo said the plans had been welcomed by City Press' staff. Editor Khulu Sibiyi was unavailable for comment

Vosloo said he hoped the newspaper — which lifted sales 1,4% to 267 550 for the six months to June — would become the kernel of a new black publishing house

City Press would be spun off

from its current Naspers' division National Media as a separate company. National Media's magazines — Drum and True Love — would not be included in the deal

Vosloo said a new board of directors would be created in terms of which the black investors would hold a majority share in the City Press business.

Naspers would retain control of printing and distribution

He said black shareholders — who held a majority stake in Naspers' Via Africa associated companies — would also be encouraged to buy shares.

Other shares would be made available to staff members and the public to spread ownership as "widely as possible".

Vosloo said the share scheme would be similar to M-Net's Phutuma share initiative, under which shares were bought by putting down a deposit equal to 10% of the share price.

The restructuring of unlisted parent Nasionale Pers Beherend was approved by a majority of shareholders yesterday.

Shareholders approve Naspers restructuring

BY MAGGIE ROWLEY

(243) CT(MR) 21/11/95

Cape Town — The restructuring of Nasionale Pers was unanimously approved yesterday by the shareholders of the unlisted Nasionale Pers Beherend.

Yesterday's extraordinary meeting, postponed from November 10 when a quorum could not be obtained because of an insufficient number of shareholders with voting rights in Beherend, followed the go-ahead by shareholders in the listed company.

As a result of the restructuring, which was due for completion by December 29, Beherend's 50 per cent share in Naspers would be traded directly by shareholders on the JSE.

Beherend was created at the time of Naspers' listing in Sep-

tember last year as a mechanism through which control of the group could be ensured. However, its structure soon proved to be detrimental to shareholders, with the shares trading at a discount to shares in the listed company.

Owing to a change in the JSE's rules, the control sought by Naspers can now be achieved by according special voting rights to certain categories of shares.

Naspers will create a new class of share to be known as A ordinary shares which will each attract 1 000 votes, but which will never be eligible for a dividend of more than 20 percent of that paid to holders of existing ordinary shares. These will be known as N ordinary shares.

The scheme has been approved in principle by the JSE.

'Monopoly on media' slammed

(243) (245) *Howe* 23/11/95

Black Editors Forum calls for changes to the power base of SA's white media

By Christine Qunta

THE LAST FEW months have seen some very sharp exchanges between black journalists and the white media. It all started when the Black Editors Forum (BEF) in its submissions to Parliament suggested that media diversity should be encouraged and foreign ownership limited.

These calls have subsequently been repeated by the BEF. The furore that the black editors caused in white media circles is not surprising. It is not easy for people who have always had power to accept even minor alterations to their power base.

The furore is not necessarily a bad thing. This country, so accustomed to a media that is both banal and parochial, is badly in need of intellectual revival.

The pedestrian nature of the South Africa media is of course not an accident. It is concentrated in the hands of a few who do not see the media as a national resource, where information is mixed with inquiring and incisive journalism but rather as a mechanism for control of the minds and wealth of the population.

Having followed the debate closely, I noticed something which perhaps has not been sufficiently highlighted: the whole white media, from the conservative to the liberal, rallied to attack the black editors and the nature of the attacks.

The focus on BEF chairman Thami Mazwai as the trouble shooter was interesting. The *Sunday Times* quickly did a profile on him. All they could come up with was that he once belonged to the PAC. The *Mail and Guardian* went one further.

In typical American "elevate to assassinate" style, they told us how he was a reformed alcoholic, how he "splutters" and gesticulates wildly when he talks and the *coup de grace* - how he is not really as brilliant as the *Drum* journalists of the fifties!

Contrast this profile and that of Ministry of Health's Dr Olive Shushana, with the flattering profiles of Rabbi Cyril Harris and Charles Nupen, the latter being so

fawning as to make one sick.

It seems that Africans, especially those who openly challenge white power structures and racism, come off rather badly in *Mail and Guardian* profiles.

One of the most distressing aspects of the white monopoly of the media is the way it demonises African people. Having for years presented Africa as a chaotic place of darkness where only evil, inept and corrupt people exist, it now continues the sterling work done by previous generations of "civilised" whites to rescue the country from the African curse.

And the way to save us is to make sure our achievers are cut down so that we do not have role models we can be proud of. It does not do this only on the basis of ingrained racial antagonism towards Africans, but more specifically because white power is being threatened by the emergence of democracy in this country.

In this period of transformation, much that has been a source of comfort to whites will change, and for every change, no matter how small, the media had a field day in denouncing it.

At this, the liberal English-speaking Press has been very adept. The storm over the changes at SAfm is but one example of an artificial crisis orchestrated by this section of the media.

But it is when we look at the fate of some black professionals within white institutions that we realise we are dealing with more than simply a vigilant Press.

We realise that there is in fact a campaign being waged at a subterranean level. In this campaign, white politicians, civil servants, academics and corporate executives are arrayed against black politicians, professionals, corporate executives and new civil servants.

It is fought not only in the corridors of Parliament, boardrooms and exclusive golf clubs, but in the media. In fact, the most powerful tool in the hands of the white establishment is the white media.

There is an important lesson to be learnt by all Africans who are potential targets of the white media: do not leave yourself open to attack. Integrity and a morally upright life crucial at all times, but especially during this difficult period

in our country's history.

The malevolence of the white media is a very serious problem. A new, more open media is needed in this country. The white media monopoly is out of step with progress and the sort of democracy that is beginning to emerge.

It represents a bygone era where African people are merely background images flitting across the landscape of white privilege.

Such false images cannot continue because we are the centre, not the periphery and the sooner the white media realises this the better for all of us. (Christine Qunta is an attorney and freelance writer who returned to South Africa recently after

243

23 | 11 | 95



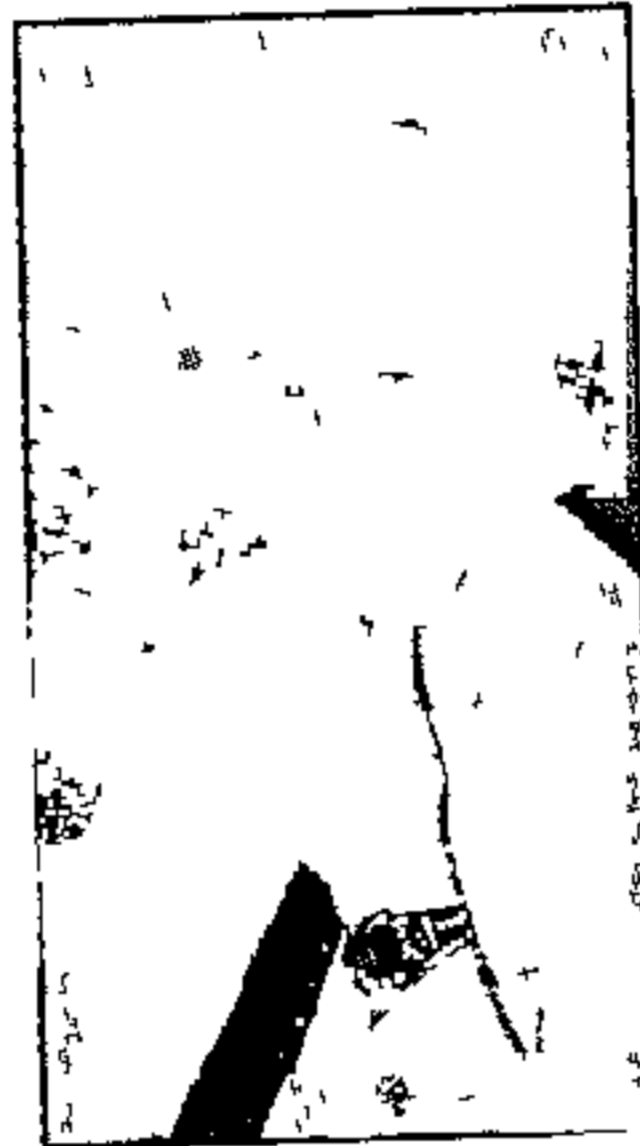
Christine Qunta ... Information is used to control the minds and wealth of people in South Africa.

distribution price will be determined on the weighted average of the trading prices of the three listed investments from December 8 to December 14

TML MD Roy Paulson says the R55 reached on Tuesday for TML shares indicates the value placed by the market on the package

That, however, could be at the lower end of TML's implied value. Based on a p.e. ratio of 25,8 at the share's closing price of R48 on Monday, the publishing interests — removed from the influence of pay-TV and cellphone investments — are on a 5,3 p.e.

That clearly is too low. Though the comparison is not exact, the p.e. ratio of a share



Paulson

like Nasionale Pers, with similar holdings in M-Net, MCL and M-Cell, declines from 24,3 to 12,9 when stripped of the electronic investments. On the same p.e., TML shares would be worth about R62. Independent Newspapers is on a p.e. of about 17.

The close relationship between TML's share price and those of M-Net, MCL and M-Cell was becoming a problem, with the investment tail often wagging the dog.

Paulson says management had felt for some time that the investments were cloaking the true value of TML. With the formation of Omni from the former Argus Holdings, it seemed logical to transfer the investments to the holding company, he says.

"It will allow TML to operate in its own right and unlock the value of TML shares," he adds.

The transfer will affect TML's balance sheet — removing the book value of the investments — and its market capitalisation. At current prices, the aggregate market value of the investments (R781m) represents about four-fifths of TML's total capitalisation.

But Paulson points out that these changes will not affect the managed operations.

The offer appears favourable to minorities, certainly, the market seems to think so. Equivalent shares in M-Net, MCL and M-Cell is probably the most attractive option. That would allow investors to acquire a spread of direct investments which can be traded to build the portfolio which best suits minority shareholders.

The true value of TML's shares, though, will only be shown once the shareholding structure has been broadened and the stock becomes more liquid.

Omni had undertaken to reduce its share-

holding in TML, possibly down to 51%. Paulson says this could be put into effect early next year. *Shaun Harris*

OMNI MEDIA/ TIMES MEDIA (243)
Unbundling investments

FM 24/11/95
Early market reaction to the unbundling of Times Media (TML)'s investments in pay-TV and the cellphone industry was remarkably bullish. Before the *FM* went to press, TML shares traded at R55 — their highest price yet and nearly double the level of four months ago.

Effective from December 18, TML will transfer its direct and indirect holdings in M-Net, MultiChoice (MCL) and M-Cell to 92% controlling shareholder Omni Media.

Minorities can elect to receive either an equal spread of shares in the investments — in ratios of 152,3 M-Net, 171,9 MCL and 323,2 M-Cell shares for every 100 TML shares held — or the cash equivalent. The

Paper's racial split attacked

MG (P/M) 27/10 - 2/11/95 (243)

The Sunday Times' policy of producing racially targeted 'Extra' editions has come under fire. **Neil Bierbaum reports**

Is the country's biggest-selling newspaper, the *Sunday Times*, living in the past? Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale took aim at the paper's separate racially-targeted editions last week, criticising the paper for continuing to "produce 'Extra' covers around their white supremacist main publication"

It seems that Sexwale has not bought the paper for the past four-and-a-half years, the Extra has been produced as a separate edition during that period, and not as a wraparound. Nevertheless, his point raises the question, and he's not the only reader who has criticised the perceived need for a separate edition. Many staffers such as arts editor Charlotte Bauer, who says she finds the separate editions "ludicrous", have raised the same point.

Bauer's section is one of those most affected by the decision to print separate editions. The arts section in the Extra edition has a separate editor, Doc Bikitsha. The sports pages also differ significantly between the two, with the Extra edition emphasising boxing and soccer while the main edition emphasises rugby and cricket.

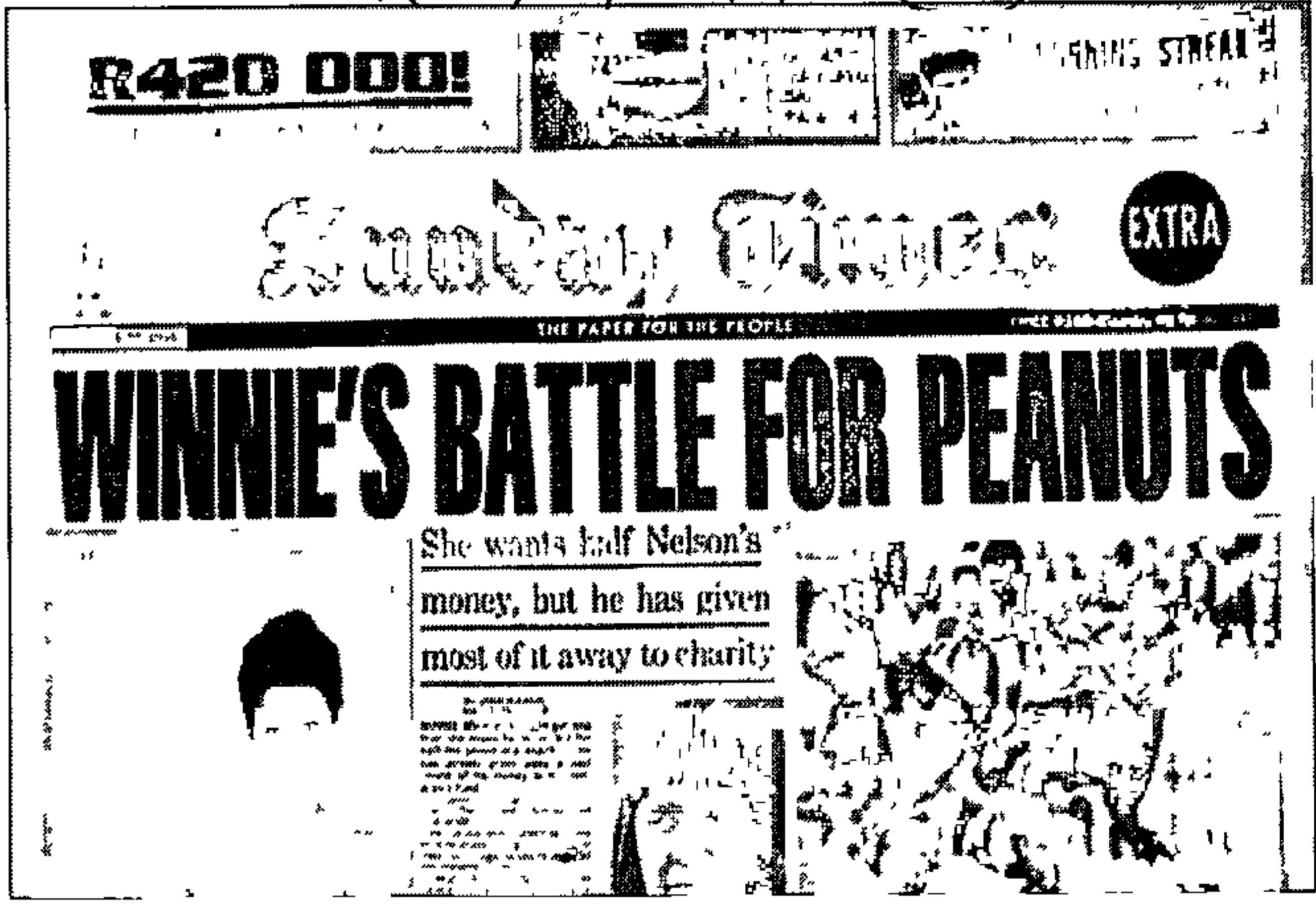
The front pages differ and different emphasis is given to a few stories inside the paper. The *Inside* magazine and the *Business Times* section are identical, while the Extra edition does not carry the *Metro*, which in Gauteng has a northern suburbs bias and in KwaZulu-Natal "reflects the population and reader profile of Durban", according to chief assistant editor Mike Robertson. An Indian Extra is still distributed in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal country districts, "because the readers want it", he adds. There is also a Cape *Metro*.

Advertisers ignore the splits and the same adverts appear in the main and Extra editions.

Separate editions for different race groups have a long history in South African newspapers. Until recently, *The Star* was putting out six editions a day, including an 'Africa' edition which "placed a greater emphasis on soccer and boxing". The *Sunday Times* started out with regional wraparounds which eventually became the *Metro* sections, which were aimed at coloured, Indian or black readers. Robertson says that the paper lost circulation when the wraparound was converted to the inserted *Metro* section. Today, the Cape and Gauteng *Metro* sections are more in line with the reader profile targeted by the main edition of the paper.

The *Star* Africa edition was dropped in June 1993. Since then, the circulation of *The Star* has declined, as has its black readership profile — from 53,8 percent of its total readership in 1993 to 41,4 percent in 1995, according to the All Media Product Survey.

General manager of *The Star* Graeme King points to aggressive price increases over that period as the reason for this decrease in black readership. He does not think that dropping



A 'black' and a 'white' edition of last week's Sunday Times. The differentiated copy and the contrasting use of typography and other design elements highlights the racial divide.

the Africa edition played any part "It was a political decision," he says. "We thought it was wrong to have a separate edition. I don't think any newspaper can afford to have editions based on race these days." He does not think the *Sunday Times* would suffer by incorporating all the sports and arts coverage into one paper.

Robertson is not convinced. "Readers do have different interests whether we like it or not, and we straddle so many circulation markets. If the readers want it this way the editor must serve them and the board that appoints him. The editor may choose to do it but I doubt he would if it meant losing circulation."

Amps figures reveal that the *Sunday Times* has steadily lost black readers over the past five years, with its profile going from being 41,5 percent black to 35,7 percent black. Ironically it has lost much of this to *City Press*, of

which more than 90 percent of its readers are black.

Most of the circulation of the Extra edition goes to Soweto and the East Rand townships. One alternative which has been considered is a Sowetan *Metro*. The logistical problem, according to Robertson, is to find printing time. The ideological problem is clear: would soccer then be relegated to the *Metro* section?

Clearly, having two editions is seen as the correct way to keep the circulation up — or at least to slow the fall. If this paper were to make a choice, the outcome might tell us something about the state of our new rainbow nation.

The global trend is towards niched print products and the *Sunday Times* remains one of the highest circulating newspapers in the world, in a relatively small market. Perhaps it is trying to hold on to the past in more ways than one.

Radical law to shake up government

MCT 27/10 - 2/10/95

(243)

A groundbreaking freedom of information Bill will guarantee public access to government meetings, writes Anton Harber

IMAGINE turning up at a government departmental meeting and demanding your right to listen in. Consider when you have a difficulty with the way a government official operates, being able to demand to see the internal instruction memo which outlines how the task should be done.

And think about having the power, if you dispute information carried by a credit bureau or a bank about your financial history, to force them to append your correction to their records.

You will have these powers and rights if a draft Bill, about to go before Cabinet, becomes law.

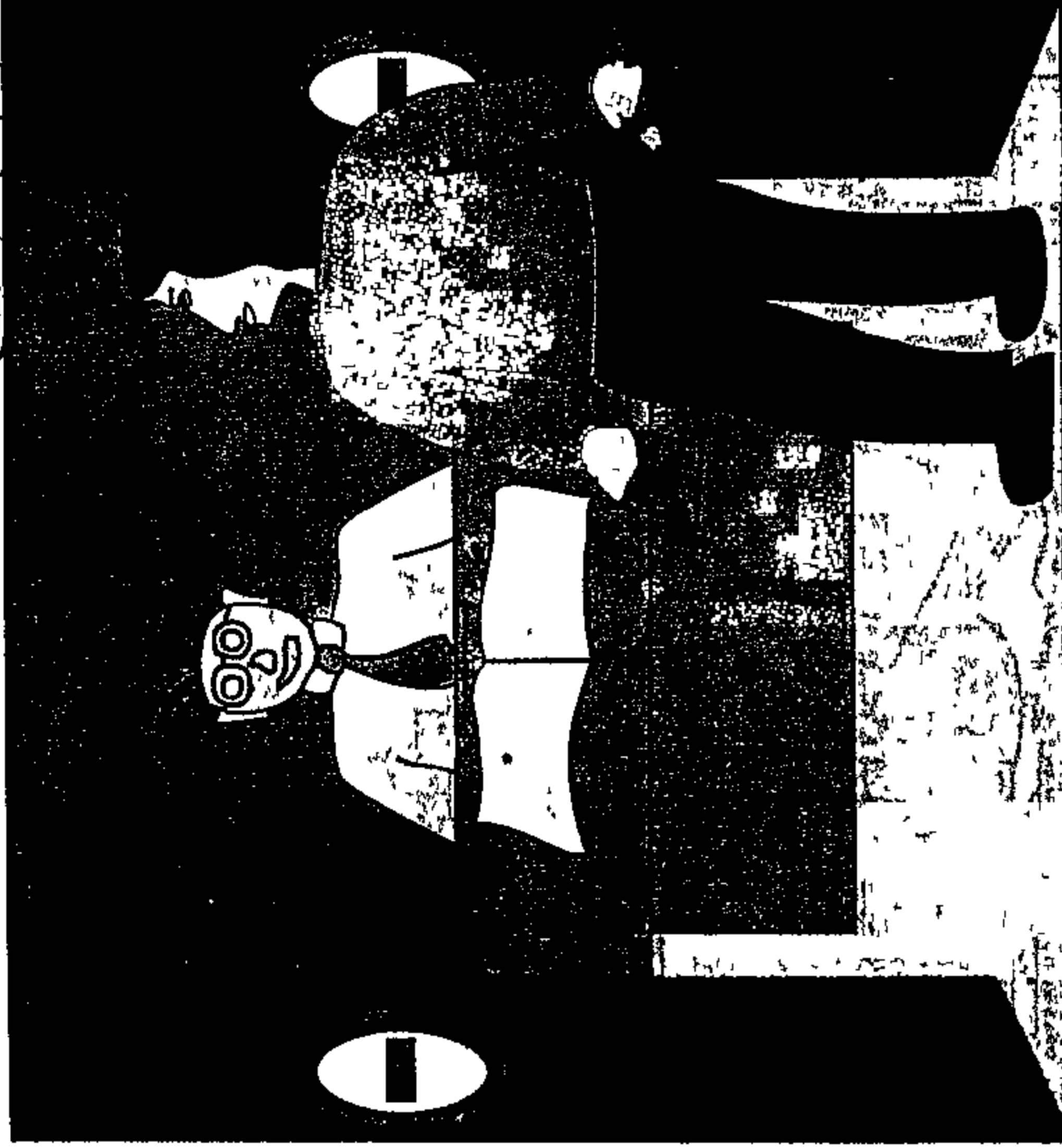
The Open Democracy Bill, which should be tabled in Parliament next year, is one of those rare, groundbreaking laws which will bring fundamental changes in the operation of government. Its purpose is to deepen democracy by enforcing the kind of public scrutiny and government openness which should significantly increase the level of accountability.

It is radical in content, establishing the individual's rights to attend government meetings, demand official documents, see the internal memos which set out how state departments work, correct misinformation about oneself in the public and private sector, and encourage civil servants to blow the whistle on corruption without losing their jobs.

It applies at all levels of the state, from the Banana Board to a local city council, from the National Intelligence Agency to the presidency, from a commission to an attorney general's office. The only blanket exclusions are meetings of the Cabinet and "judicial organs".

The ramifications are enormous. If the officials holding a meeting don't want you there, they will have to say why, show that this complies with the narrowly defined reasons outlined as acceptable in the law, and have a majority of the participants agree. If you think they have still denied you a right, you will be able to take them to a new Information Court.

The Bill very carefully sets out valid reasons for denying these rights to you, on grounds such as national security, invasion of privacy, the protection of a third party's commercial information, the obstruction of law enforcement and harm to the country's international relations or economic interests.



But the onus will be on the government officials to prove that these do in fact apply and to provide full reasons, allowing one to challenge them in court if one does not accept them.

One of the far-reaching aspects of this Bill is that a "whistleblower" — an official who exposes corruption or maladministration — gets full protection. They cannot lose their jobs, or be disciplined, for speaking out, even if by doing so they break another law, such as the Official Secrets Act.

This will fundamentally change the way government departments work, forcing them on a practical, day-to-day level to become more open and accountable, and challenging the secrecy and defensiveness which characterises most of the civil service. It will implement and make tangible our new Constitution's commitment to openness.

It will make South Africa a world leader in the implementation of democracy. Although a number of other countries have equivalent

freedom of information laws — such as the US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Scandinavia — none is as comprehensive as the Bill going before our National Assembly.

The Bill grants these rights to everyone, but in particular it will massively empower the media, giving them the right to probe where it has never probed before and gain access to information previously unavailable.

The Bill has been quietly assembled by a special task force in the office of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, who bears responsibility for information matters. Headed by advocate Mojanku Gumib, the group has so far produced nine drafts of the law after extensive, across-the-board consultation.

Some of the unusual features of the law are:

- Any person will be able to exercise these rights, not just citizens or voters.

- Every government body will have to designate an information officer to deal with these matters and a list of these officers will have to be published in the telephone directory.
- Every state body will have to publish an index to its records.

- Formal rules for departments to give notification of meetings, to prevent them from meeting in secret to avoid scrutiny.
- A right to correct misinformation about oneself. If you discover that someone has filed wrong information about you, you can demand its correction or at least for your version to be appended to the file. This also applies to information in the private sector — such as that held by credit bureaux.

- The rules apply not just to formal government departments, but to any body delegated government powers, such as consultants and commissions.
- A quiet triumph for the rights of the disabled. All reasonable steps have to be taken to ensure that official meetings are accessible to the physically handicapped.
- Even if you are refused information on good grounds, such as national security, you can demand it if you can show that no harm will be done by its release.

- Whistleblowers can demand to be moved to another equivalent job if their position is harmed by their exposure of wrongdoing. The Bill does have its critics, most of whom argue that it will create an expensive and cumbersome bureaucracy specialising in dealing with and circumventing demands for information and access to meetings.

But its supporters argue that, by exposing and preventing corruption and maladministration, it will save a lot more money than it costs.

In the US, which has had a similar law for over two decades, the major problem is the abuse of the system by companies seeking information about their competitors. The task group's answer to this is to charge companies which ask for information in order to cross-subsidise the cost of finding information for individuals citizens or the media.

The Bill would put strain on government departments having to deal with its requirements and some may push for delays, although international experience appears to be that there is a gross exaggeration of the expected number of requests for information and meeting attendance.

But these are secondary problems. The real issue is whether this Bill — which will have more than its fair share of nervous enemies — will survive intact as it passes through the Cabinet, committees and Parliament.

Share sales help Naspers boost earnings 30% ⁽²⁴³⁾

By MAGGIE ROWLEY

CT (192) 29/11/95

Cape Town — Nasionale Pers lifted earnings before abnormal items by 30 percent to R43,5 million in the six months to the end of September.

Extraordinary items, comprising the profit from the sale of 12 million M-Net shares to Phutuma Trust and the sale of its 25 percent stake in Master Directories to ITT World Directories, boosted the bottom line by a further R48,9 million.

This resulted in attributable earnings surging to R92,4 million, up 192 percent over the corresponding period last year.

Profit generated by Naspers's own operations showed a 19 percent improvement at R38,5 million on the back of a 25 percent increase in turnover to R667 million.

Naspers' interest in associated companies contributed an additional R5,9 million against a loss of about R1 million at the halfway mark last year.

Earnings a share calculated on the total net profit were up 196 per-

cent at 83c (28c). However, shareholders will have to wait until the end of March for a slice of the improved earnings as it is Naspers's policy to declare a dividend only at the end of the year.

Naspers chairman Ton Vosloo said the main reason for the turnaround in contributions by associated companies was that the investment in MultiChoice was written down to zero after the unlinking of the M-Net and MultiChoice shares and the transfer of MultiChoice's interests in the cellphone industry to M-Cell. He said any further losses that might result from this investment would no longer be equity accounted in the income statement.

Vosloo said the relatively small profit increase in respect of Naspers's own operations was partly attributable to the benefit the company had derived, during the corresponding period last year, from pre-mature turnover in the Boekhandel group. This turnover, he said, would be reflected in the financial statements for the full year.

DILBERT

Sale of shareholdings helps boost Naspers bottom line

BN 29/11/95

(243)

Edward West

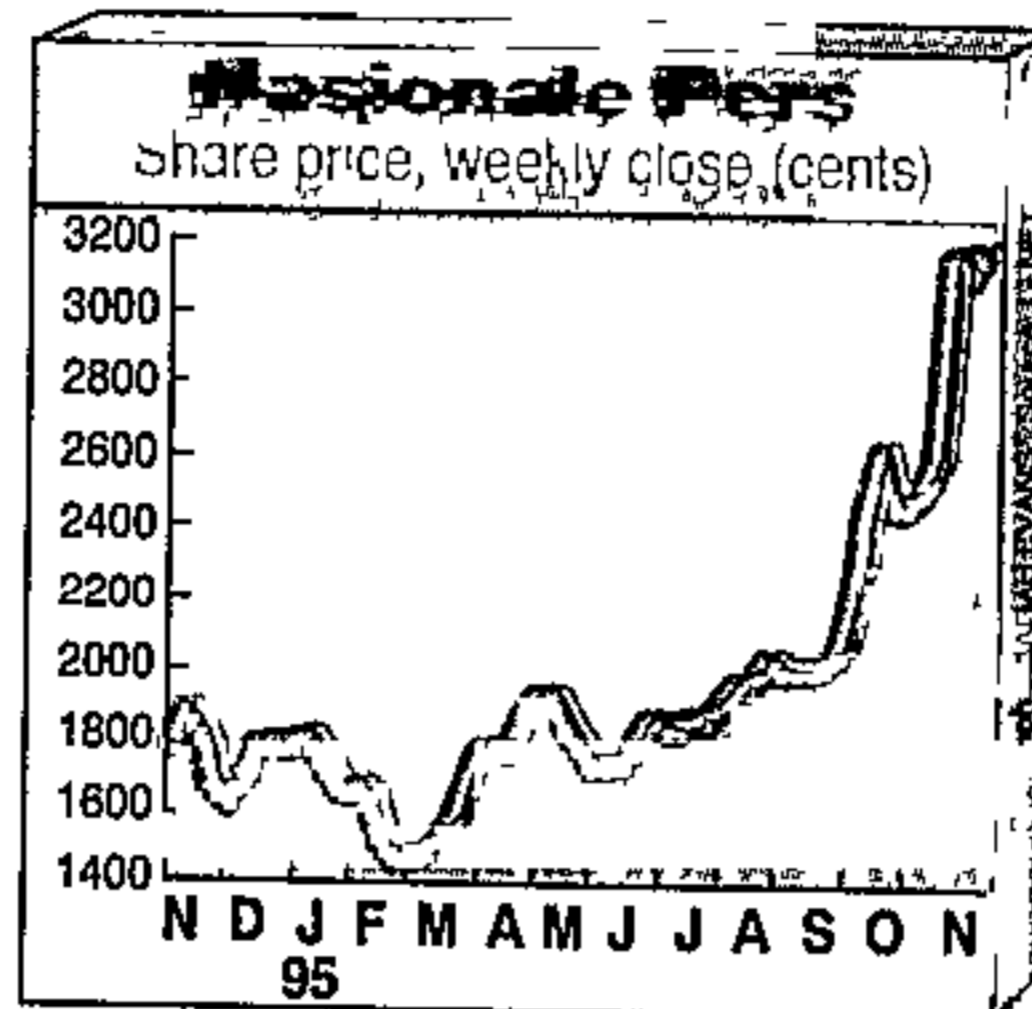
CAPE TOWN — Nasionale Pers' sale of M-Net shares and its stake in Maister Directories boosted the group's bottom line in the six months to end-September, with its share earnings on total net profit nearly three times higher at 83c (28c)

Profit before abnormal items — the profit from the two transactions — was 39% higher at R43,5m compared with R31,3m the previous year

Profit generated by Naspers' own operations increased 19% to R38,5m on a 25% turnover hike to R667m. Naspers' interest in associated companies contributed R5,9m, bringing profit before abnormal items to R43,5m. In the corresponding six months this resulted in a loss of just below R1m.

Net asset value increased to R5,10 from R4,75. It is Naspers policy to declare a dividend only at year-end.

The two transactions — which showed a R48,9m profit — were the sale of 12-million M-Net



shares to the Phutuma Trust and the disposal of its 25% interest in Maister Directories. The M-Net shares were sold in line with a resolution by newspaper groups to offload 10% of their shareholding in M-Net to Phutuma Trust, to be made available to disadvantaged communities on favourable conditions. Naspers' interest in M-Net after the sale was just below 20%.

The group's stake in Maister Directories was sold to ITT World Directories, which would continue the Yellow Pages operation in conjunction with the Maister family.

During the review period Naspers acquired an interest in Destiny Electronic Publishing and in Electronic Network News. It also bought the Free State knock-and-drop Express, took over the publication of Who's Who and acquired Mast's academic bookshops. The cost of these investments, together with the M-Cell rights issue, was R92m.

A Naspers spokesman said it was mainly these investments, as well as the construction of the R250m magazine printing works in Cape Town, which had pushed interest-bearing debt to R26m from R340 000.

Naspers executive chairman Ton Vosloo said the main reason for the turnabout from associates was that after the delinking of M-Net and MultiChoice shares and the transfer of MultiChoice's cellphone interests to M-Cell, the investment in MultiChoice was written down to zero.

The spokesman said the group as a whole was trading well despite the fact the investment in M-Net had not yet started paying off.

New press body announced

ET 30/11/95

(243)

JOHANNESBURG: Four press bodies have decided to invite public proposals for the formation of a new complaints forum that would replace the Press Council of South Africa, the council has announced.

The Newspaper Press Union, the Conference of Editors, the Black Editors Forum, and the Media Workers' Association of South Africa yesterday agreed that advertisements would be published inviting the public to put forward their ideas as to how and by whom their complaints should be settled — Sapa

Holomisa versus Independent Newspapers

Star 30/11/95

(243)

BY SUSAN MILLER

Independent Newspapers has asked the Rand Supreme Court to overturn a decades-old presumption in common law in a defamation suit brought against the company by Deputy Environment Affairs Minister Bantu Holomisa.

According to the dictates of common law, Independent Newspapers has to prove that allegations made about Holomisa in The Star are true. However, the company's lawyers are arguing that this is an unfair and unconstitutional burden.

Holomisa is suing Independent Newspapers Ltd for an article which appeared in The Star on May 27 1993 alleging that "military intelligence sources believed him to be directly involved in the infiltration into South Africa of Apla and Transkei Defence Force troops".

The article further alleged that the operation was "aimed at killing whites in the northern Natal region" and at "assassinating a top South African official in Transkei".

Gilbert Marcus, appearing for Independent Newspapers Ltd, said the company was applying for an exception to the particulars of Holomisa's claim, as he was a public official at the time the article was written and was still a

public official.

Marcus argued that Holomisa should have to prove that the allegation was false and that The Star knew it was false when it published the report.

He said that in accordance with the interim constitution which came into effect on April 27 1994, in the case of public figures newspapers had the inherent right to free speech and expression under Section 15.

He said the exception was brought on the grounds that Holomisa's particulars of claim disclosed no cause of action.

"When the article was written he was the military ruler of the Transkei and he is now the deputy minister of environmental affairs," he said.

Marcus said Holomisa's action was instituted in August 1994, "well after the coming into operation of the interim constitution".

He said a public figure must therefore prove that the press had abused its right to freedom of expression.

"This article was clearly written about Holomisa in his capacity as a military ruler and therefore in his capacity as a public figure," he said.

Marcus said that if the court ruled in Independent Newspapers' favour, Holomisa would have to amend or rephrase his

claim to allege and prove "actual knowledge that the matter published was in fact false" or alternatively that the newspaper in question went ahead with "publication of the matter in question with reckless disregard as to whether it was false or not".

Marcus said the exception to the particulars of claim was based squarely upon the impact of the constitution on the common law of defamation.

He asked Mr Justice Edwin Cameron to accept the principles of an American case, The New York Times versus Sullivan, in which it was held that a public official should be prohibited from recovering damages for defamation relating to his official conduct unless he proved the statement was made with "actual malice".

Dali Mpofu, appearing for Holomisa, said the constitution could not be applied to this case because it was litigation between two private persons. He said Holomisa was suing Independent Newspapers in his personal capacity.

He said if the court held that the constitution did apply, then the Sullivan case must be rejected as it was based on different standards and "our courts have always upheld the individual's right to dignity".

The monopoly is the message



The structure — not just the colour — of South Africa's newspaper industry is where the real problem lies, writes **Bruce Cohen**

243

M+G 1-7/12/95

CARL NIEHAUS should know better. As one of the African National Congress' key media liaison figures during the run-up to the April 1994 elections, he got to know the press as well as any. So his outburst in the *Sunday Independent* this past weekend — a contribution to the increasingly ugly but nonetheless vital debate over media control in this country — was inexplicable.

The issue, he suggests, boils down to a conspiracy of (white) sub-editors who spike and maul the copy of black journalists!

The silliness of Niehaus' contribution is matched only by the attack of attorney Christine Guinta, who raged in the *Sowetan* last week against Mark Gevisser, arguably the country's most thoughtful writer. Gevisser, she alleges, uses "elevate-to-assassinate" tactics to destroy the black elite in his weekly profiles in the *Mail & Guardian*. After all, he described *Enterprise* editor Thami Mazwai as "spluttering".

But Mazwai, who has given the debate over media control a fresh and welcome kick-start, is also guilty of narrow typecasting, of reducing this important issue to white versus black, contributing to an unnecessary polarisation of hard-working journalists in this country and diverting focus away from the core problem facing the press in South Africa.

The crisis facing the South African press is not only one of colour. It is one of control. Three companies (Independent, Naspers and Times Media Limited) hold an intolerable monopoly of ideas, information and communication. Niehaus, in his hunt for a scapegoat, conveniently ignores his party's own responsibility for this. The ANC has systematically supported the further consolidation of the newspaper monopolies and has failed utterly to deal with the issue of promoting press diversity.

It was the ANC that welcomed Tony O'Reilly into the country to grab from Anglo, at a price that defies logic, the assets of Argus newspapers and then to allow the baked bean king to consolidate his position so that he now holds a total monopoly of the English language daily newspaper market in Cape Town and Durban in addition to his control over the Gauteng market.

It was the ANC that conveniently shut up

as Times Media Limited (TML) quietly re-acquired the *Daily Dispatch*, giving TML an absolute control over the English daily press in East London and Port Elizabeth.

It was the ANC that turned a blind eye to Naspers' smooth share manoeuvre this month, which means the company — with 100 percent control over the Afrikaans daily newspaper market — will never have to let go. (Naspers sells close to 250 000 newspapers per day.)

"The evil of bigness in itself may be debatable", says American media critic James Aronson, "but the dangers of monopoly news and monopoly opinion-making are not."

Over the past few years I have been researching the increasing concentration of media ownership in South Africa, noting the shifts and changes.

I have watched as, to tumultuous welcome, Argus sold 52 percent of the *Sowetan* to Dr Nthato Motlana — but retained direct control over the newspaper at every level. Argus (now Independent), apart from its 20 percent stake, continues to hold the printing, distribution, advertising and management contracts for the paper. In other words, *de facto* control. (Motlana should be given credit for saving *New Nation* from a donor death-wish, but it too is now under Independent control.)

I have also noted Naspers' plans to sell some of the shares in *City Press* to black owners, but it will remain firmly at the helm of the newspaper.

And I await JCI's efforts to turn TML into a black empowerment company.

Doubtless some black people will profit handsomely from owning a share of South Africa's newspaper monopolies and even influence the appointment of editors. But the truth is it alters only the colour — not the structure — of control of this key sector.

Every day about 1.3-million daily newspapers are sold in South Africa. If you think that is impressive, it is not. In terms of per capita penetration (newspaper sales as a percentage of population), this is a penetration of around three percent, alongside countries like Tunisia, India, Botswana and Brazil. Contrast this with the penetrations of newspapers in countries like Norway (62 percent), Japan (58 percent) and the UK (36 percent).

Of these 1.3-million daily newspapers, 57

percent belong directly to, or are controlled by, Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers (formerly Argus). If we ignore the Afrikaans Press, then fully 75 percent of all English language daily newspapers sold in this country are O'Reilly papers.

O'Reilly's monopoly is truly awesome at a metropolitan level. In the country's second and third biggest cities (Cape Town and Durban), every single English daily metro newspaper — morning and afternoon — is an O'Reilly newspaper (*Cape Times*, *The Argus*, *Daily News* and *Mercury*). In Johannesburg and Pretoria, where around 580 000 daily English language papers are sold, O'Reilly controls 70 percent of the market (*The Star*, *Sowetan*, *Pretoria News*).

Few countries in the world can boast such a massive concentration of power.

Whether these monopolies employ white or black editors is a very important issue and Mazwai has rightly thrown down the gauntlet. But what matters more is their power in the market, in their extraordinary influence and control over the advertising and distribution channels — whether anyone else (black or white) could ever get a foot in the door.

In many countries there is clear recognition of the umbilical link between a diversity of press voices and the proper functioning of a democracy. They acknowledge that without state support, freedom of expression would become the right of the few who could afford to publish their opinions.

These countries — and they include Sweden, Norway, France, Holland, and Belgium — actively promote and support diversity of the press with a variety of financial incentives and tax breaks. They acknowledge that the state bears significant responsibility for the fulfilment of the goal of promoting a democratic — diverse — press.

Some take press diversity so seriously that they channel public funds directly into small newspapers. Countries like Austria, France, Sweden and Holland have devised elaborate schemes to ensure that all sectors of society have adequate media voices.

Instead of blaming pale sub-editors and intelligent writers for the miserable state of the South African press, Niehaus and others ought to be tackling the real issues.

Bruce Cohen is executive trustee of the South African Newspaper Education Trust and governing council member of the Media Institute of Southern Africa. He helped found the Independent Media Diversity Trust.

Opening those info floodgates

CP 10/12/95

New SACS boss has big plans to inform all South Africans

By SEKOLA SELLO

SLIGHT-of-build Solly Kotane does not cut the image of a fighter. But since his return from exile, it seems it has been the bane of his life to take on jobs that others would prefer to give a wide berth.

Kotane shot into national prominence less than two years ago when he was appointed chief of the Bophuthatswana Broadcasting Corporation — an appointment it was said only someone with a masochistic streak would relish.

Bophuthatswana was in turmoil. Lucas Mangope had been toppled in a popular uprising, and the various structures of the homeland administration were on the verge of collapse.

Kotane was one of the "firefighters" who were sent in to restore order. Apart from his background in journalism, he had all the right qualifications for the job. But, most important, he was politically correct.

He was one of the bright sparks of the ANC, a factor the organisation calculated would stand him in good stead in the turbulence sweeping BBC.

It was a miscalculation which almost went awry. Instead of getting a red carpet welcome, he ran the gauntlet of opposition which at times bordered on open hostility.

The workers, spearheaded by the powerful Media Workers Association of South Africa, were opposed to his appointment. He was considered an outsider imposed on them by big brother (ANC).

Weathered

Yet, in no time Kotane had weathered all the storms. In his quiet and unassuming manner, he won over the confidence of the workers and later emerged as the champion of their rights.

Kotane has since left BBC to head the South African Communications Services.

Since taking over at SACS from the beginning of last month, he has not encountered any resistance.

But Kotane is not too starry-eyed to believe that everyone has laid out a welcome mat for him.

He concedes that "not everybody was happy about the new changes (in the country). Some people are still nostalgic about the past".

But Kotane is not trying to pick a fight with the mainstream press. He acknowledges that the commercial press have a particular turf to corner, and the government another.

"The majority of the people who live in the country," he states matter-of-factly, "are the illiterate majority. These are the poor majority. Although radio reaches them, some of them are too poor to afford them. This is where SACS comes in — to devise means that will ensure that these people are not denied information."

"We will embark on joint ventures with various government ministries, for example the ministry of land affairs, on land uses, land restitution or prospecting in Mpumalanga."

Radio, says Kotane, is going to play a crucial role and can help to summarise statements made by government officials. "Telling people about their rights," he says, "is another concrete way to economically empower them."

Kotane is new at his offices in the heart of Pretoria and is still settling in. A picture of President Nelson Mandela hangs on the wall behind his desk.

"I need to get pictures of the other guys", he tells his chief of com-

munications, Mandla Themba.

The "other guys" are second deputy president FW de Klerk and Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Kotane is aware that this omission could lead to accusations of political bias and tries hard not to bring in his ANC affiliations to the workplace.

Given the enormity of the task that Kotane has set for his team, how does he hope to achieve his goals?

A practical man, he does not pretend to have ready answers.

But "it is not idealistic to extend your vision beyond the normal" is his constant refrain as he charts out some of his more ambitious plans to transform, redefine and redirect SACS.

Interacting

His plans include interacting sufficiently with various ministries, churches, non-governmental organisations, schools, traditional leaders and various local government structures.

Some of SACS' operations could demand more personnel and resources, thus making it a bloated bureaucracy at a time when a leaner and more efficient outfit is the new mantra of government.

Kotane is unfazed by it all. He and Themba exude confidence as they

acknowledge some of the problems and how they intend to tackle them.

"By bringing the various government communication services together, we will minimise duplication. But we are not saying offices must close. Instead we will rationalise and be cost sensitive," they explain.

How Kotane and team will rationalise without cutting jobs remains to be seen. Even central government has tried this without success.

Although Kotane has had a smooth run so far he could soon be treading on sensitive toes. A number of apparatchiks have built their own little empires in the various communication services of government departments and will not be too happy about being swallowed up by SACS.

Most of Kotane's ambitious programmes are still on hold. He is awaiting a government-appointed task group to unveil its plans on the structure of the country's government communication services. The report on the radical transformation of the services is expected in a matter of weeks.

"The day I hear that people in the most inaccessible rural areas say this or that project was built by government, then I will know that we have achieved our goals," he said.



CONFIDENT . . . SACS boss Solly Kotane (left) and communications chief Mandla Themba (right) believe they will overcome all obstacles and succeed in their endeavour to empower the people with knowledge.

By SEKOLA SELLO

Kotane argues that the mainstream Press is failing to inform the people adequately about what the government is

the Department of Information has been trying to live down since the infamous days of "Information Gate"

He shrugs off the question that this makes him chief government propagandist — an image SACS and its forerunner

His task, he says, is to ensure that government achievements are adequately communicated to the people

But he is not going to waste time brooding about these stragglers. He has a mammoth task ahead of him

Grant established to assist land reform beneficiaries

BD 18/12/95

Louise Cook

THE first application under government's new settlement planning grant to help land reform beneficiaries to employ professional planners will begin this week, the land affairs department says.

Land Affairs director Nico van Rensburg said the amount available for the grants was not specified but the money would come from the land reform budget of R200m.

So far one application has been received from 40 farmers at Valhersdorp in the Western Cape.

They have enlisted the help of the Rural Foundation to acquire state land and have applied for a grant of R54 000 to turn the project into a viable undertaking.

He said another 70 applications for settlement aid, submitted under the previous govern-

ment, were likely to qualify for government's planning grants.

Next year the number of applications for the grants were expected to rocket, he said.

"The move is aimed at avoiding poverty traps from people not being able to develop redistributed land into financially viable units."

Initially, during the first phase of development, the size of the grant was 2% of the total project cost. Thereafter it went up to 4%, he said.

A land affairs department grants and services document released last week stated that the grant enabled prospective and actual beneficiaries of land reform to appoint planners and professionals from private firms, government and non-governmental organisations for legal and financial planning and planning land use and infrastructure, as well as help

with land purchase negotiations.

"The objective of the grant is to assist poor communities to plan for their settlement needs in terms of acquisition, use and development of the land and the mobilisation of resources required to do this."

The document said the grant could finance planning of preliminary and detailed settlement. Beneficiaries could also use the grant to appoint land valuers from a panel of government accredited valuers.

The grant was one of three new schemes of the land affairs department to kick-start land reform. A settlement grant of R15 000 a household and a district planning scheme aimed at provinces and local authorities wanting to embark on land development would come into full operation next year, Van Rensburg said.

Press Council may be replaced

Farouk Chothia (243)

DURBAN — The Conference of Editors hoped to meet the Black Editors' Forum in early February to get unification talks off the ground, conference chairman John Patten said at the weekend.

He said little progress had been made so far to create a single body for editors. Exploratory talks between the two bodies "blew up" following the decision by Sunday Times editor Ken Owen and Weekly Mail and Guardian editor Anton Harber to quit the conference. They were the body's representatives in the exploratory talks, Patten said.

Efforts to unify the two bodies could run into problems due to the

fact that the forum had a "very big agenda on transformation", he said.

Despite their differences, the conference and forum have agreed to work together — along with the Newspaper Press Union, the Media Workers Association of SA and the SA Union of Journalists — to establish an independent mechanism to deal with public complaints against press reports. The new body would replace the press council.

Patten said the debate on a replacement to the council had "virtually restarted" at the request of the forum. The forum had been brought into negotiations over the issue only recently, and said it still needed to formulate a position.

Agribank to stop tool confiscation

Bonile Ngqiyaza

THE Agribank has put a moratorium on the confiscation of farming implements in Northwest Province following a meeting last week between the province's agriculture and environment MEC Johannes Tselapedi, Agribank and representatives of Ditsobohla farmers.

Agriculture department spokesman Lana Quinn said drought conditions in the past three years had made it difficult for some emerging farmers to repay their debts, causing the bank to foreclose on their loans and to repossess farming implements.

At the meeting Tselapedi had expressed concern at the problems experienced by black farmers during the current ploughing season.

It was agreed that Agribank would cease its "call-up activities" from today until January 31 when the Agribank board would hold its next meeting.

Tselapedi would discuss the issue with them, with a view to extending the moratorium to February 29 next year.

The agreement should not be seen to exempt farmers from honouring their obligations with the bank.

Joburg-Pretoria speeding fines at R2m

Bonile Ngqiyaza

ABOUT 9 000 speeding offences are committed by motorists on the freeway from Johannesburg to Pretoria each month, Midrand Traffic Department superintendent Wilhe van Rooyen said at the weekend.

The Midrand Traffic Department monitors the N1 section of the freeway, which stretches

between the Buccleuch area and Pretoria.

Van Rooyen would not say whether the freeway was the most dangerous in the country. But the Sandton Traffic Department, which monitors the M1 as far as Corlett Drive, has reported collected fines worth more than R2m from drivers transgressing traffic rules on the N1, N3 and the M1 in the last six months.

Archive Bill to lift veil of secrecy

BD 19/12/95

(243)

Tim Cohen

DETAILS of the heated Cabinet debates that took place in the wake of the 1976 Soweto uprising will become public knowledge next year following the introduction of legislation that will reduce the period restricted documents must remain secret.

Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Minister Ben Ngubane announced yesterday the Cabinet had approved the tabling early next year of the National Archives of SA Bill, which would strive to introduce a more transparent and reflective system.

One of the sections of the Bill proposed a reduction in the time restricted documents would have to remain secret from 30 to 20 years. This would allow access for the first time to the minutes of former president BJ Vorster's Cabinet meetings at the time of the 1976 uprising, which was sparked by a decision by then education minister Andries Treurnicht to enforce Afrikaans-language tuition at all black schools.

The minutes could provide new insights into the then government's reasons for this and other controversial decisions, and may even prove embarrassing to currently active politicians such as then foreign minister Pik Botha and also to then defence minister PW Botha.

The minutes could also reveal unknown details of the clandestine pro-government propaganda campaign which was exposed in 1978 as the information scandal which resulted in the downfall of the Vorster government.

Ngubane said the problems which could be caused by the long passage of time before restricted archives could become public knowledge were illustrated by the

fact that government only last year determined that the records of the Rivonia trial, preserved by the Master of the Supreme Court, were incomplete.

The Bill, which would revise the existing legislation, would align the archives with the democratic reform that was taking place in the country.

The current Archives Act, as well as archives Acts promulgated by the former homelands, were limited in scope and nature, lacked clarity and did not reflect the political and institutional changes in the country.

Ngubane said the legislation included provisions for the maintenance of national registers of non-public records of enduring value. For example, the archives of the Christian Institute, banned in the 1970s, had been searched for unsuccessfully.

These records were currently not required to be listed and preserved in terms of existing legislation. Many invaluable non-public records which filled the gaps in SA's recorded past had been lost because of the absence of legal provisions for their preservation in existing legislation.

Ngubane said the new Act would define professional terminology extensively, which would close loopholes which had resulted in legal interpretations which excluded certain categories of archives, for example tape recordings. In the proposed new legislation, "record" is defined as recorded information regardless of form or medium.

He was confident that the proposed new system, under the direction of a national archivist, would further the protection of SA's national heritage and set the tone for an open and democratic archival dispensation for SA.

Govt to probe media ownership

(243) CT 20/12/95

PRETORIA The government had appointed a 10-member task group to investigate its communications policy and review issues such as the ownership and control of the media, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office said yesterday

The task group, which was constituted by Mr Mbeki, will make its recommendations to his office

The group's broad terms of reference include a review of govern-

ment communications policy on all levels, relationships between government communication functions, government budgets, relationships between government communications bodies and non-government information providers

The group will also review ownership and control of the media and how this affects government communication.

Members of the group are Dr Stephen Mncube, Mandla Langa, Mathata Tsedu, Tshepo Rantho, David Dison, Sebitso Mokone Matabane, Raymond Louw, Prof Willem de Klerk (subject to confirmation), Val Pauquet and Steve Godfrey.

Mr Mbeki's office said here that the task group was expected to begin its work in January — Sapa

Print sector rejects fund plan

(243) (145)

POLITICAL STAFF

CT 20/12/95

A NEW mechanism should be set up to fund the community media sector, the 37-member Community Print Sector of South Africa (Copssa) said yesterday

It also rejected a proposal that the Independent Media and Diversity Trust (IMDT) should be the conduit for government or foreign funds

Copssa, through its general secretary, Mr Sifiso Ndlazi, said the proposal to use the IMDT contradicted the decision of the national community media conference to establish an accountable Enabling Support Mechanism for the media and the creation of a short-term Transitional Emergency Relief Fund for the crisis facing the community media sector. Copssa was convinced the IMDT did not have the will and capacity to avert the crisis

The media were still largely controlled by a few whites

POLITICS

Row bursts over media

(243)

howe san 21/12/95

Print media sector is opposed to funds being channelled to trust

By Pamela Dube
Political Staff

THE COMMUNITY PRINT SECTOR of South Africa has come out in opposition to the suggestion that funds for the community media sector should be channelled through to the Independent Media and Diversity Trust

Copssa general secretary Mr Sifiso Ndlazi said yesterday that at a meeting with the National Community Media Fund (NCMF) last week his organisation rejected a proposal from the director of communications of the Independent Development Trust (IMDT), Mr Jolyon Nuttal, that funds for the community media sector should be channelled through the IMDT

Ndlazi said the suggestion, given to the Copssa via the NCMF, was against the decision of the national community media conference to establish a credible and accountable Enabling Support Mechanism for South African media and the creation of a short term Transitional Emergency Relief Fund

Copssa is also challenging the fact that Nuttal "is a trustee of the IMDT and there is conflict of interest in his suggestion to the community media sector," Ndlazi said

"It appears that Nuttal is trying to find a role for his organisation. We believe that this organisation is being shoved down the throats of the community media sector as the saviour" added Ndlazi

He also said his organisation was convinced that IMDT "does not have the will and the capacity to avert the crisis faced by the community media sector. "If the IMDT has all the magic answers that could save the community media sector from the crisis, why did it not provide these devices to save the now defunct Independent Magazines Group which was at its mercy?" he asked

Copssa appealed to the government and the international donors not to recognise the IMDT as a channel for community media

Nuttal is on leave and was unavailable for comment

Media task group members named

Star 21/12/95 (243)

By **PATRICK BULGER**
Political Correspondent

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki has named the members of a media task group that will investigate government-media communications and patterns of media ownership and control.

According to a statement issued by Mbeki's office, the task group was first mooted earlier this year at a government communications conference held at Arniston on the Western Cape south coast.

That meeting came about largely as a result of Mbeki's perception that the Government was not communicating its message adequately to the media and that the media was dominated by white middle-aged males who set a media agenda that persistently criticised the Government.

The conference also recommended that affirmative action policies be examined and that government advertising be withheld from publications that did not implement affirmative hiring policies.

The task group comprises Stephen Mncube, divisional manager of the Development Information Service of the Centre for Policy and Information, Mandla

Langa, director of Interface Consultancy-Productions, Mathata Tsedu, political editor of the Sowetan newspaper, Tshepo Rantso, president of the National Community Media Forum, David Dison, a leading media attorney, Sebileto Mokone Matabane, co-chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, Raymond Louw, a former editor of the Rand Daily Mail and chair-

Members will hand report to Mbeki

man of the Freedom of Expression Institute, Willem de Klerk, a former editor of Rapport newspaper and now a private communications and political consultant; Val Pauquet, national communications co-ordinator of the National Peace Accord; and Steve Godfrey of the Commonwealth.

The terms of reference of the inquiry include a review of existing government communications policy at national, provincial and local level, existing government communications structures and

facilities at national, provincial and local level, the relationships between government communication functions at national, provincial and local level, existing government budgets with special reference to personnel, operations and equipment, relationships between government communications structures and non-governmental information providers, government communication, training and capacity-building with special emphasis on affirmative action, the ownership and control of South African media and how this affects government communication, defining existing information delivery mechanisms, examining international communication functions with special emphasis on information dissemination, and researching government communications policies, functions and structures in other democracies, especially developing countries.

Mbeki's spokesman, Thami Ntente, said the group was expected to begin its work next month and that it would report to Mbeki when it finished.

No budget had yet been set aside, Ntente said, adding that it was not expected that any of the members would perform work full-time on the group.