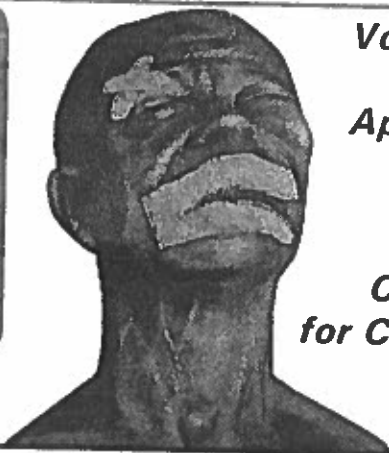


FREE PRESS

30p

JOURNAL OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR
PRESS AND BROADCASTING FREEDOM
No.38 DECEMBER 1986



*Voices of the oppressed -
a supplement on
Apartheid and censorship
INSIDE*

*And don't miss
CENSORAMA, a benefit
for CPBF and CFOI, Sunday 7
December at London's
Piccadilly Theatre.*

Clare Short vs. Sunday Sport

Full report of the
Manchester debate —
Page 3



Pictures: Linda Lamon

Campaign counters Tebbit's tantrum

The Tory campaign against the BBC reached new heights with Norman Tebbit's report criticising the Corporation's coverage of the Libyan bombings.

The report, refuted in a point by point rebuttal by the Corporation within days of its publication, drew almost universal condemnation.

The Campaign dubbed it 'part of an orchestrated campaign to soften up public opinion in preparation for the privatisation of the BBC.' Labour, Liberal and even the right-wing Tory backbench Home Affairs committee joined in the chorus of condemnation.

Most agreed with Alistair Milne, Director General of the BBC when he said it was an attempt to intimidate the Corporation in the run up to the general election.

NUJ members in the BBC, ITN and IRN warned of a 24-hour stoppage if the "BBC did not resist censorship and attempts at political interference."

But it would be a mistake to think it is just bully boy Norman, true to Spitting Image form going over the top once again.

Since the publication of the Peacock Report, Conservative central office with Cabinet knowledge have waged a ferocious campaign against the BBC.

Using the pages of the Conservative 'Newline' to whip up Tory anger against the BBC, Tebbit announced his Bias in Broadcasting Monitoring Unit in June.

Tory backbenchers attacked both the BBC's coverage of South Africa and the 'Monocled Mutineer'. A Director of Murdoch's Times Newspapers, Duke Hussey, was appointed Chair of the Board of Governors. The Panorama Libel affair blew up amidst allegations of Tory Central Office leaning on witnesses.

And Tebbit promises more evidence of the BBC's retreat from impartiality.

Cont. p.5

Shut the door on racist reporting

Once again the dailies have been oiling their racist machinery to churn out racist headlines and racist "facts" around the introduction of visas for visitors from India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The "reporting" has been so disgusting that a number of organisations have complained to the Attorney General, the CRE and the NUJ.

CPBF has complained to the Ethics Council of the NUJ about journalists from six dailies and one Sunday paper.

We urge anyone who found this reporting racist and offensive to register their protests with the papers concerned and to complain to the Ethics Council.

For further details contact Perminder or Kofi at CPBF.

Feminist publishing

CPBF's women's group organised a meeting on feminist publishing looking at anti-racist and anti-imperialist strategies. A number of points of action emerged including writing to feminist publishers, sending a delegation to a popular feminist publisher, looking at redistributing resources and basically publicising how Black, Jewish and other groups of women are being treated.

There is to be a follow up meeting in January. Anyone interested should contact Perminder, Gail Chester or Julienne at the Campaign Office.

McCarthy lives!

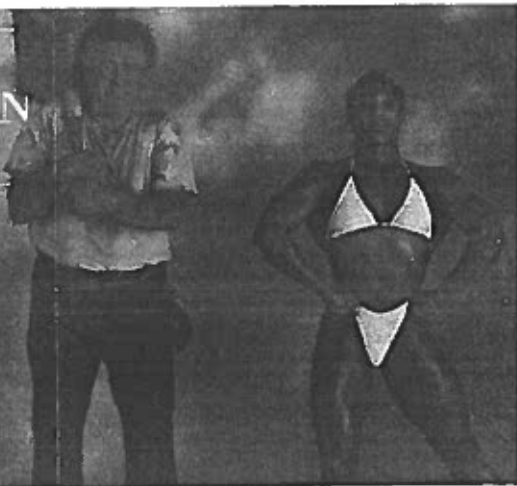
Feminist writer Margaret J Randall faces deportation from the USA, "solely on the basis of the ideas and opinions expressed in her published writings," according to a court ruling.

Ms Randall is the author of "Part of the Solution: Portrait of a Revolutionary" (New Directions) and "Women Brave in the Face of Danger — photographs of Latin & North American Women" (Crossing Press).

Her case is being taken up by writers and civil rights lawyers who fear that the move by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service may herald a new era of McCarthyism.

Born in the US, Ms Randall gave up her American citizenship when she married a Mexican. Returning to the US after a divorce, she remarried and taught at the University of New Mexico, overstaying a six-month visitors visa. But the deportation order, giving her to Dec 1 to quit the country, was upheld by an immigration judge on the basis of her writings which deal with women's issues and the Third World and are regarded as Marxist.

BRITISH GAS.
SOON ANYONE CAN
BUY A SHARE.



Along with the floatation of shares in British Gas is the floatation of yet another Black stereotype: the super-strong athletic Black woman on the lines of actor/singer Grace Jones, judo expert Cleopatra Jones...

Although one has to congratulate British Gas for using a Black woman to advertise their product (most advertisers don't), one cannot but question their insensitivity.

The image of the Black woman has all the connotations of being butch, strong, sexual and available with strong hints of animality.

But is an ad less sexist if it portrays a semi-clad woman who is also muscular (an attribute generally associated with men)? Is an ad less racist if it shows a Black female body-builder alongside a white male working class builder?

We think not. In placing a Black woman in the role of body-builder — a role which evokes controversial responses from audiences, the ad simply perpetuates such perceptions of Black women in general.

Is it not time that we as Black women were portrayed as 'normal' first?

CPBF Black Group members

FP Editor notes: The other stock stereotype offered by this advert in the Radio Times is the Irish labourer — are we to be surprised that he should own shares — or surprised that British Gas wants him to buy?

Publishing called to book

When we think of racism, sexism, distortion in the media, we hardly ever think of book publishing.

The industry keeps a low profile — and probably for good reason. Those of us working in it know that it has much to be ashamed of.

Examples can be found in all kinds of books, fiction and non-fiction, and, perhaps most seriously, children's books. Part of the problem, when it comes to racism, is that book publishing is a predominantly white, middle-class and ultimately very conservative industry.

The Book Branch of the NUJ has set up a working party to look into ways of encouraging more people from the Black and other ethnic minority groups to enter the industry.

Meetings of the Ethnic Minority Recruitment sub-committee are held at 13 Hillmarton Road, London N7, and are now open to anyone involved in book publishing who supports our aims.

If you would like to contribute contact Jenny Vaughan on 01-607 2117 or write to Book Branch c/o Acorn House, 314 Grays Inn Road, London WC1.

No Comment

1. BBC regrets

"If there is a problem in the country then the BBC has to react to it, and the problem is that there are a lot of blacks and they are not on telly." Thus Bill Cotton, head of BBC TV, at the launch of its 50th anniversary handbook.

"In an area where there are a lot of black people, one of the qualifications for working on television there would be being black," he said, adding that the same would be true for other areas whatever the ethnic minority, according to today's reporter Avril Connard.

His explanation for the BBC's poor record to date?

"I do not think we have been racist. But we have been like the rest of the country. There has been a degree of ignorance."

2. True colours

"On balance, my heart still belongs to Britain. But no longer unequivocally. If Britain ever got involved in punitive action against South Africa, for example, I would be on the other side."

"Nor do I share any feelings of affinity with the British Commonwealth, or any sense of fellowship whatsoever with many of the new immigrants to this country."

"A patriot for old time's sake; that I am through and through. But increasingly I find contemporary Britain more wrong than right, more hateful than loveable."

The words of Peregrine Worsthorpe, Editor of the *Sunday Telegraph*, who used a recent Colour Supplement to explain the values that govern his life.

Packed Manchester meeting for the great debate

Page 3: Entertainment or Exploitation

The NW-CPBF had to turn people away from a packed meeting at Manchester's Cornerhouse when over 200 women and men turned up to hear Clare Short, MP debate with Michael Gabbert, executive editor of the *Sunday Sport* about whether or not pictures of naked women should be banned from newspapers.

Michael Gabbert maintained that photographs of topless women in newspapers are "harmless fun", causing offence to a small but vociferous minority of women. To ban them, he argued, would not only be a denial of what he claims to be a "natural and instinctive desire of men" but would also represent a serious threat to press freedom. He felt that the CPBF was grossly mis-named if it is willing to support Clare Short's campaign and condone censorship.



Ms Short argued that pictures of topless women should be censored on the grounds that they demean women, distort men's sexuality and their views of women, and, in so doing, may lead to sexual violence against women. She also described the opposition, crude remarks and juvenile innuendoes she had encountered from her parliamentary and press adversaries, and compared them with the 5000 letters of support she received in the course of her campaign.

Ms Short told the audience of a letter from a woman who had been raped. The woman told of the guilt she had felt after her attack following her assailant's comments that she should be on Page 3, and how the MP's campaign had helped her re-gain some of her self-respect.

Mr Gabbert refused to concede

By Nancy Jaeger

that many women are offended by photographs of topless women and denied that there was any contributory relationship between their portrayal of women and the increasing levels of violence against women. Rather, he believed such pictures to be acceptable to the majority of women, and claimed that they offered a "release" to men rather than an incitement to violence.

As the discussion developed, however, it became clear that Mr Gabbert's concern was neither for the feelings or the welfare of women nor the freedom of the press, but simply the pursuit of profit.

He was asked by a member of the audience to consider a hypothetical situation in which his newspaper achieved a circulation of five million through its publication of photographs of topless women as a result of which it was known



that ten women had been raped. Mr Gabbert was swift and blunt in his response: "ten out of five million isn't a very large proportion."

Not surprisingly, the spirit of the meeting was unanimously against Mr Gabbert. This narrowed the debate to a united attack upon him, and mitigated against members of the audience questioning Clare Short about the implications for Press Freedom arising from her Bill.

● The Campaign's Women's Group is currently preparing a book of essays examining the problems of censorship raised by objections to publication of "titillating" sexual imagery. It should be available in the New Year.

For more information contact Julianne Dickey on 01-437 2795.

Audience reaction shots by Linda Lamon

Disability Guidelines launched

The politics of disability is slowly gaining ground on the left's agenda, but better media coverage of disability issues and more accurate representation of people with disabilities is about as far away as ever.

The suicide of PC Olds is a case in point: tabloid hype about his refusal to accept disability and the "miracle cure" which he was supposed to have undergone reinforced society's obsession with "normality" and the notion that disability inevitably means an unfulfilled and tragic future.

The press and tv both completely misrepresented the reality of his disability, focussing on his recovered ability to walk a few steps but ignoring other aspects of what paralysis means.

When disappointment set in and he took his life, the media took no responsibility for their own role, preferring simply to blame his attackers and make further calls for "law and order"

NUJ/CPBF leaflet guidelines for treatment of disability by the media were launched at a recent CPBF Disability Group meeting. Stephen Illiffe of the group and Wendy Moore of the NUJ outlined the

history of the leaflet, stressing the need for its wide distribution among media workers.

Copies of the leaflet, including large print and braille copies, are available from the CPBF office.

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4. MEDIA MANIFESTO

MEDIA MANIFESTO: first reactions

Demand for the Manifesto has trebled the original print-run of 50,000, making an unexpected dent in Campaign resources — so donations are welcomed along with your comments.

The Manifesto has been distributed by the Fabian Society, Index on Censorship, New Internationalist, the National Council for Civil Liberties, the Communications Campaign, NALGO, the Association of Independent Producers and the South East Regional Council of the TUC, among others.

Every MP and MEP has received a copy so they should know about it when you write to yours.

Get people talking about it around topical issues — the Wapping dispute, the cancelled Community Radio experiment, the Panorama libel case, Tebbit's attack on the BBC, the Green Paper on broadcasting etc. Raise it in any organisation you belong to, send for more copies, take it up with local councillors. And let us know their reactions.

Some responses have been very detailed, most have been positive. Here is a sample from members and non-members:

"I applaud the Manifesto. The problem will be the vested interests of many in the political parties, and the opposition of editors to the right of reply. However we must keep fighting!" C.S., York.

"The Manifesto is excellent and covers the first steps necessary to move towards genuine democratic media in place of the undemocratic and anti-democratic media we have at present." G.C., Glasgow.

"... far too screeching and imperative. What we need is a possible policy for a possible Labour government. The Front Bench will never produce one because they, like all politicians, are in fear of assassination by the set up as it is."

"Peacock was an attempt by the Tory Party to evolve a media policy for the Tory Party. They failed because they dare not act as they would wish. What we need is, primarily, television that stops pretending to tell the truth and allows good reporters to report (and) the National Printing Corporation because the public aren't mugs and know they are buying rubbish." F.B., London

"I do not think it is realised widely enough how extremely anti-democratic present editorial power is, or how much this matters. A few dozen totally unelected people in control of the bulk of what the vast majority read and view. It is grotesque."

"These people also control the feedback... everyday thousands of letters-to-editors are scrapped... not only a frustration of free communication, but an enormous wastage of ideas, criticism, goodwill and creative popular energy. Perhaps a Campaign priority could be a simple thing like the expansion of readers' letters space..." O.O., Hove

"I am certain that such an approach to the present state of secrecy and media domination is long overdue... in due course there will be a tremendous wave of opinion behind the objects and ideals. For years it has been my hope that a (daily or weekly) publication might emerge, consisting entirely of public opinion on any and every subject which would fairly reflect all views, uncensored..." J.R., Southampton

"I agree with the emphasis on the fact that free play of market forces does not confer freedom for all shades of opinion to be read or heard." P.D., Ewell

"You will need to back up your allegations with concrete evidence. Although I agree with most of your points, I suspect most people would disagree, or think you overstate; some would be put off by pro-minorities emphasis." D.C., Belfast

"...it will need to... appeal to the innate good sense and fairmindedness of most people. It would be too easy for the media... to terrify the public into thinking that a plot is afoot to take (it) into the hands of 'power-crazed extremists'." C.R., London

And last but not least, from the new Liberal leader of Tower Hamlets Council: *"Our first priority is to improve the well-being*

of the residents of the Borough. We will deal with other matters, such as the well-being of the media, in due course."

Keep the comments coming!

INDEX ON CENSORSHIP

Index on Censorship regularly reports on the way the authorities in various countries (most frequently of course the one-party and military dictatorships and totalitarian regimes, but also governments in more liberal and democratic countries such as Britain, the USA or France) censor, restrict and try to influence the media.

That there is a need for this can be seen in the latest spate of attacks on the BBC and on recent cases in America of the application of the notorious McCarran & Walter Act barring entry to the USA of various 'undesirable' foreign writers and journalists.

The July-August issue concentrated on the situation in Africa, following the state of emergency imposed there on 12 June, with its draconian restrictions on press reporting.

We carried an article by Tony Heard, editor of the *Cape Times*, on the problems he and other journalists now face as a result of a piece by the African novelist Stephen Gray, and a day-by-day record of the intimidation and prosecution of newsmen and editors between Sept. 1984 and 16 June this year (to be continued in future issues).

In September, *Index* looked at the young democracy in the Philippines six months after the departure of President Marcos, with special regard to the position of the media under the government of Cory Aquino; and we tried to answer the question of just how 'open' is the 'openness' (*glasnost*) proclaimed by Mikhail Gorbachev in the USSR.

The October issue was one of our occasional literary 'specials' with the main features section given over to the work of banned writers and poets — but we also took note of the deteriorating situation in Chile, where José Tarrasco Tapia, foreign editor of the banned opposition weekly *Análisis* was murdered the previous month.

The main feature of the November issue is the full text — appearing for the first time in English — of the latest play by Czechoslovakia's top dramatist, Václav Havel, who has not been allowed to publish or have his plays performed, in Prague ever since the Soviet invasion of the country in August 1968.

Our chief preoccupation in the past few weeks has been the compilation of a report on the contemporary state of censorship of the media throughout the world, to be presented at next January's conference on the subject.

The conference, organised jointly by the Washington-based World Press Freedom Committee and *Index on Censorship*, will take place in London on 16-18 January 1987.

George Theiner



Prisoner of Conscience in Ethiopia:

MARTHA KUMSA

Martha Kumsa, aged 34, is a journalist and mother of three children. She has been detained without charge or trial since 1980.

At the time of her arrest Martha was working on the government's Oromo-language newspaper, *Barissa*. She was arrested together with several hundred others of Oromo ethnic origin whom the authorities reportedly suspected of sympathising or collaborating with the armed opposition group, the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF).

Martha Kumsa is detained in the women's section of the Central Prison in Addis Ababa. The authorities have not specified the grounds for her detention. She is reported to have been tortured in the Central Investigation Centre after her arrest, but is now said to be in good health.

Amnesty International does not believe that Martha Kumsa was a member of the OLF, and believes that she was arrested because her husband had fled the country and was alleged to have joined the OLF. Amnesty has adopted her as a prisoner of conscience.

Campaign members are asked to send appeals for the immediate and unconditional release of Martha Kumsa, to: His Excellency Mengistu Haile-Mariam
Head of State of the Government of Ethiopia
Office of the Head of State
P.O. Box 1013, Ethiopia.

In the dark

The Gay Film Season That Wasn't

You may not have noticed it but there was recently a gay film season on Channel 4. You may have missed it because C4 got twitchy about Mary Whitehouse's denunciations shortly before it was due to start, and withdrew the title and all publicity for the season. The organisers of "In the Pink", Richard Kirker and Mark Finch, and the CPBF Lesbian and Gay Group mobilised lesbian and gay response to the season throughout the country — resulting in exceptionally high figures in the duty log after each programme. Very few negative calls were received.

The viewing figures for the 14 films were also high; anything over 700,000 is considered good for the Eleventh Hour slot, and most of the films exceeded that. Interestingly the three films specifically about lesbians received the highest figures of all — with the lesbian romance *November Moon* receiving one of the highest-ever viewing figures for Eleventh Hour: 1,459,000.

The season's organisers describe its tortuous path onto our screens.

Jan 83: Gay activist Richard Kirker appears on Right To Reply one of three viewers complaining about a New Year's Eve gay programme. One In Five. Afterwards, he suggests to Paul Madden that C4 hold a consultative forum with the lesbian/gay community.

Mar 83: Madden suggests that Kirker put forward a specific programme proposal.

May 83: Kirker and journalist Mark Finch send Madden 5-page letter detailing Gay Film season.

Aug 83: Madden agrees to proposal in principle, but needs official approval.

May 84: Proposal receives approval.

Sept 84: 50-page development submitted.

Jan 85: Paul Madden becomes first Commissioning Editor not to have his contract renewed by C4.

Apr 85: Alan Fountain, Commissioning Editor for the Eleventh Hour slot, meets Finch. He wants a flurry of gay films over one or two weeks, prefaced by a documentary on the history of gay images, which cannot be made until next financial year.

Sept 85: David Robinson's *Choice* film season (organised in-house by C4 as a safe way of getting difficult films on air) includes three of the proposed titles from Gay Film season. One of them, *Sebastiane*, is eventual-

ly cited as cause for the Obscene Publications Act (Amendments) Bill.

Oct 85: Fountain appoints Caroline Spry, assistant editor with control of Gay Film season. She is enthusiastic but rejects the original idea of double-billing mainstream with independent films.

Feb 86: Gays And Broadcasting Conference at London's County Hall. Paul Bonner, Programme Controller of C4, announces Gay Film season to start on Sept 1 1986, subject to confirmation from Jeremy Isaacs.

Mar 86: Isaacs gives go-ahead. Schedule must be fixed by end of April — eight weeks to locate, view and choose material.

May 86: Suggestions for the season's title made to and rejected by Isaacs, Bonner, Liz Forgan; Isaacs approves "In The Pink", as working title.

July 86: List of 100 'sympathetic' journalists and gay activists is provided on request to C4 Press Officer for special press release. List not used.

Aug 4 86: Daily Mail quotes Isaacs plans for gay programming. He cites *Six Of Hearts*, a

series of documentaries scheduled for mid-November (which the makers do not want labelled as 'gay TV'), but doesn't mention *In The Pink*.

Aug 8 86: Mary Whitehouse announces she has written to Isaacs and other Heads of TV to warn against any gay programmes "in the light of... an AIDS epidemic".

Aug 11 86: *In The Pink* dropped as a title, and removed from the TV Times as it goes to press. Isaacs's office re-writes press release: now the Gay Film season is a "short series of films which may be of interest to gay viewers."

Aug 13 86: TV Times refuses to print the full title of *17 Rooms* or *What do Lesbians do In Bed?* *17 Rooms* is rejected for transmission on technical grounds.

Aug 15 86: C4 unveils another strategy for getting difficult films on the air: *Special Discretion Required* — the Red Triangle (sic).

Aug 17 86: C4's Autumn Season press launch doesn't mention the world's first network TV series of lesbian/gay films, C4's educational magazine *See Four* includes a short piece on the season but omits the title. **Sept 1 86:** The first films are screened. Duty Office receives a record-breaking 52 positive calls and only one hostile caller — a pattern that continues throughout the season.

Sept 10 86: The IBA give Isaacs freedom to make special exemption to show *17 Rooms*. He does.

Sept 18 86: A drunken C4 Duty Officer tells a caller "I'm sick to death of all these gays. 99% of them are horrid, horrid people".

Oct 13 86: *Scorpio Rising* is cut before transmission. The Duty Office explains that the copy was shown "as supplied by the distributor". In fact, the IBA demanded a split-second image of an erect penis be cut by Alan Fountain's office. C4 chose not to use the SDR symbol. Later the IBA requested another cut of an erection. Fountain convinces them that this one is flaccid and can therefore be passed. *17 Rooms* is not broadcast because three of the copyright owners refuse to let their music accompany a lesbian film.

Richard Kirker & Mark Finch

MAKING GOOD USE OF GLOBAL AIRWAVES

Next autumn Jonathon Porritt of Friends of the Earth will chair a series of televised public meetings at which major environmental issues will be introduced on film by advocates from six different countries. Groups directly affected by the issues in 14 other countries will then present their reactions to the arguments.

The "live" audience will contribute their views, and viewers at home will be asked to phone in their reactions. All the responses elicited will be incorporated in a submission to the United Nations by the World Commission on Environment and Development, and the programme will be tied in with a national newspaper campaign, information packs and discussion groups.

That is the ambitious scenario for "Battle for the Planet", the latest project from the International Broadcasting Trust, an independent production company and educational project sponsored by aid agencies, trades unions, anti-racist organisations and groups involved in development education.

IBT concentrates on Third World and development issues and began with the Common Interest series in the early days of C4. More recent productions have been *Utopia Ltd.*, *The People Trade*, *The Impossible Decade*, and *Spear of the Nation*, about the ANC. All come with back-up educational material.

At a reception to introduce its new director Anthony (World About Us/Third Eye) Isaacs and launch *Battle for the Planet*, the IBT won tributes for its pioneering work in participative programme making from former C4 executive Carol Haslam, now Director of Programmes on Superchannel, and TGWU research officer Regan Scott, both of whom now serve on its Board of Management.

For more information about *Battle for the Planet* or the Trust, contact So Jeffery or Ann Zammit at IBT, 2 Ferdinand Place, London NW1 8EE (01-482 2847).

Tebbit v BBC cont from p.1

Why all this bullying? Elements within the Tory Party are bent on privatising the BBC in the event of a successful election. To do this they need to convince a public, and many members of their own party, that the BBC is badly managed and partisan.

They can get away with this because there is no consensus to the left of the Tory party on how to develop and maintain a public service broadcasting system. So the field is clear for Tebbit to set the terms of the debate.

In this situation the Campaign's *Media Manifesto* has a vital role to play. It's designed to begin to provide the debate on issues of media reform which is needed if Tory plans for privatising broadcasting are to be ditched and replaced with a democratic programme for change.

Get it. Read it. Discuss it.

Tom O'Malley

JULIENNE DICKEY considers two new studies of stereotyping

Sexual Imagery

What a Man's Gotta Do: The masculine myth in popular culture by Anthony Easthope. Paladin 1986.

"In films, television programmes, advertising, newspapers, popular songs and novels, in narratives and images that press in from every side, men are invited to recognise themselves in the masculine myth. The myth posits masculinity as natural, normal and universal. In fact, it embodies a particular definition of masculinity with its own particular structure... Masculinity aims to be one substance all the way through. In order to do this it must control what threatens it both from within and without. Within, femininity and homosexual desire must be denied; without, women and the feminine must be subordinated and held in place."

Correctly, Easthope asserts that feminists have tended to see masculinity as a source of oppression. Masculinity is not itself the problem; rather, it is the constructed masculine ideal and the use to which it is put, to bolster patriarchal capitalism. The first step to dismantling this ideal is to expose the fact that it is constructed, and is not itself reality. To do this Easthope turns to the psychoanalytical model. Choosing various examples from western popular culture, he both explains the theory with reference to the examples, and explains the examples with reference to the theory — thus creating a somewhat circular argument.

The problem with a psychoanalytical model is that it claims to be an explanation for what happens, whereas it is merely a description — and a culturally determined one at that, despite its apparent universality. Moreover it sometimes requires tortuous manipulation to make the examples fit the model.

In my view a feminist critique of the construction of masculinity and femininity, the power relations between the genders, and the economic rationale for this, is far more plausible and useful model. I'm not sure that for me the book provided any new insights, but it does highlight the importance of this area for research and hopefully will stimulate greater awareness and discussion.

Legal advice

There isn't room to do justice to the updated version of Bill Wedderburn's comprehensive guide to the law on workers' rights — almost 1,000 pages of information, explanation and background that every trades union branch should buy for their secretary.

Apart from reminding us how Tory laws are designed to keep working people in their place as wage slaves, it is a concise, easy to understand and sympathetic account of industrial legislation.

The Worker and the Law Lord Wedderburn
Pelican £10

Television and Sex Role Stereotyping by Barrie Gunter.
John Libbey, 1986.

This television research monograph, commissioned by the IBA, reviews various studies undertaken over the past two decades. Women are found to be seriously under-represented in most programme categories, portrayed in a restricted range of roles and with personality characteristics which give them a less favourable psychological profile than men.

These findings are undisputed by the author. However when it comes to studies which try to establish the effects of television stereotyping on the audience, he is very critical of their validity.

It is difficult to prove that viewers take from programmes the same meanings as those ascribed to them by researchers.

Further difficulties arise with research methods: those studies relying on correlation between amount of viewing and attitudes of the viewers cannot prove a casual relationship, while those using laboratory experiments are undermined by small samples and artificial viewing conditions.

The author falls back on the view that sex role beliefs are formulated elsewhere in society, and that children and adults bring these beliefs to their perception of television. This is undoubtedly true, but such an uncritical attitude, though no doubt welcomed by the IBA, is not very helpful in working out how television can improve its portrayal of women.

Maybe television companies should improve images of women because that's the fair thing to do, not wait for research to prove that negative portrayal has negative results. If the IBA is so concerned about television sexism, maybe they could be commissioning studies which seek to establish how better representation of women might work towards eliminating sexist attitudes.

Gay news?

An excellent 18-page pamphlet (*The Dissemblers of Fleet Street. Press Distortion of Gay Issues in the UK* by Terry Sanderson) outlines the outrageous treatment of lesbians and gay men at the hands of the press. To those who seldom venture beyond the genteel heterosexism-by-exclusion of the *Guardian*, giant headlines such as GAYS ARE EVIL (Bromley Leader) and ROW OVER POOFS AND QUEERS (Solihull Daily Times) may come as a bit of a shock. To Terry Sanderson, who compiles the Media Watch column in *Gay Times*, they are routine

Free French Radio

"... and there are dozens of stations in Paris" is an often heard comment to support the case for more radio stations in the UK.

However, the history of free radio in France has no parallel in this country, nor could it ever.

It is above all a political struggle for the ending of state monopoly on broadcasting, a struggle with the Socialists on the side of free radio.

The story starts with a hoax: 1977 and a political discussion on the TV. An ecologist being interviewed enters with a radio and later declares to the TV audience that a pirate radio station is broadcasting and switches on his radio for all to hear.

In fact a colleague in the audience had the transmitter hidden in a bag, but the result was the birth of numerous pirates: not to play music as has happened here, but to talk politics, freedom of expression, and to represent minority groups such as the immigrants, feminists, gays, even anarchists. This is what free radio stood for in the early days in France.

When 21,000 steel workers in the Lorraine were to be made redundant life in the town of Longwy revolved around a station set up by the CGT union. When the government jammed it there was a riot with buildings burned and 25 people injured, 15 of them police. "Lorraine Coeur d'Acier" lasted 17 months.

After the pirates, the jamming of stations in Paris, the elections of May 1981 and the victory of the Socialists, came (eventually) legal free radio, at first without any advertising. The advent of advertising brought the death of most of the political and innovative stations.

And now, in 1986?

Many of the local, community-type stations have been bought out (frequency allocations can be bought by 'les réseaux' — networks of stations linked by satellite such as NRJ, RFM and, until recently, CFM. All play virtually non-stop music).

For those that can read it this book shows why there is no such radio in this country. It tells of a completely different situation across the Channel.

More important it gives an indirect warning to those who think high-minded ideals of serving the community's interests might someday arrive here.

Richard Vidler

"FM La Folle Histoire des Radios Libres" (FM The Mad Story of the Free Radio Stations), by Annie Cojean/Frank Eskenazi.
Grasset, 1986, 98 Francs.

To those who think he exaggerates, the series editor, Bernard Greaves, makes a rather unfortunate suggestion: 'Take the Sun for a week'.

Grassroots Series No.8 — Sept 1986
Association of Liberal Councillors
Available from CPBF, CL.

If possible, please type your letters with double spacing - and get them in by January 1st. Happy New Year!

Name change

I agree with Gail Chester (FP 37): the title of our campaign is a terrible mouthful, and even as a set of initials it can sometimes tie one's tongue in knots.

But while I support her suggestion that "Press & Broadcasting" be replaced by the more encompassing term "Media", I'm not sure that we need necessarily retain the word "Freedom". Hiss of indrawn breath from all sides, I don't doubt.

But we only have to consider the use made of the term by others to see the dangers it poses for us. There is, firstly, the "freedom" of people like pornographer David Sullivan to publish Sunday Sport, and of Mail On Sunday journalists like Jane Kelly to invent material to fit their stories. Secondly, there is the "freedom" that our opponents — Alasdair Milne leaps to mind — claim the requirement to honour the right of reply would suppress. Thirdly, there is the "freedom" that Margaret Thatcher has hijacked, transformed and managed to convince a lot of people that she alone can uphold. And so on.

Are these our freedoms? Hardly — it should go without saying that they are in no way representative of the goals for which we strive. What concerns us, in fact, is not media freedom but media accountability, media responsibility — an accountability and a responsibility that are plainly enshrined in the Media Manifesto.

From my perspective, no less than six of the eight points it lists are primarily concerned or have a significant overlap with

precisely these criteria; and as such they should be clearly reflected in the name of our campaign.

I would suggest CAMRA were it not for the fact that another organisation has got to that acronym before us. But what do others think?

Joseph Nicholas
Pimlico,
London SW1

Books for a change

I endorse the view expressed by Gail Chester (FP 37) about the need to publicise the many issues surrounding the publishing and distribution of books, magazines, etc. in a society where these activities are almost wholly dominated by big business (and generally, reactionary) interests.

There is also an urgent need to campaign about the very narrow spectrum of ideological viewpoints represented to the public by the limited selection of literature and newspapers/magazines available in most public libraries.

Anyone who looks for left or even left-of-centre publications, let alone communist or Marxist publications in local libraries will be well aware of the near futility of their search. Such items can sometimes be obtained by a knowledgeable, patient and determined researcher and this helps to maintain the letter but not the spirit of 'freedom of information and absence of censorship' of which the establishment boast so frequently.

In principle the library issue ought to be one of the easier ones to pursue in view of the fact that so many regional and local authorities are under Labour control.

In conclusion, why not have CDI as the campaign logo standing for 'Campaign for Democracy in Information'.

G. Clarke
Rutherglen
Glasgow

Misplaced laughter

It is said that the camera cannot lie. It can and does.

There was an unfortunate example of this in "Newsview" on BBC-2 on Saturday evening, Oct 4. As this was a clip from BBC programmes earlier in the week it had had even larger audiences.

We were shown Eric Hammond of the Electricians' Union making a cheap jibe at the expense of Arthur Scargill who, he said, was trusted on the nuclear energy issue as much as a six-pound note. Then viewers saw and heard uproarious applause from the delegates. This was followed by Ron Todd of the Transport Workers opposing the building of new nuclear power stations.

The truth is that Hammond received hardly any applause at all. The massive cheers were during Todd's speech. I know because I was in the conference hall at the time.

Whether accidental or deliberate the effect of this cutting of the shots was grossly unfair.

Frank Allauin
Manchester

Free information

I am writing to tell you about a group called F.I.N. — Free Information Network. We are trying to contact people who may be interested in setting-up a communication network throughout Britain between people with alternative lifestyles.

FIN is being set-up to communicate and spread information on such things as local news, music, festivals, movements of travellers, oppression, life, parties and social events. We want to do this not only to promote friendship and a closer unity between people with similar lifestyles, but also to spread festival news to a greater number of people within our growing minority.

Another objective is to open a help-exchange file covering anything from storage space offered to concentrations of people needed for festivals, peaceful demonstrations, etc...

If you are interested in being part of FIN, please reply quickly enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Jill
F.I.N., c/o 99 Torriano Ave.,
London NW5 2RX

* An asterik * indicates that a letter has been edited, usually for space reasons.



Secret Police?

One night last May armed police cordoned off Cannon Street railway station in London in a training exercise designed to simulate a terrorist hijacking.

But the police were being trained to cope with a second problem also — information. "To increase the authenticity" the *Daily Telegraph* reported "police press officers assumed the role of aggressive and inquisitive journalists, browbeating policemen for information who were in turn closely watched by umpires making sure that nothing was divulged".

In a smaller way, this bizarre scene is repeated every day as new employees join the civil service. Virtually their first act is to sign a declaration under Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act.

The message is simple. If you disclose information — any information — without the express permission of a superior, you commit a lock-able offence.

Obviously this appalling legislation must be swept away. But repealing one section on its own would be of little value.

This needs to be stressed. If Section 2 goes, people who leak information would be sacked, but not goaled. That is not a great step towards open government.

We need a new, enforceable right to official information — a Freedom of Information Act.

The opposition parties will soon be drawing up their manifestos. Action on Section 2 is now almost besides the point. What we are looking to them for are clear pledges to introduce FOI immediately on taking office. And this is something a new government must be ready to do at once — before it has secrets of its own to hide.

Maurice Frankel

NCCL

Join up



"There must be plenty of people like me, who support NCCL and even take part in its activities, but never got round to becoming a member," Glenda Jackson explained as she joined up at the start of NCCL's ambitious membership drive. "It's no good believing that civil liberties are important, if we let our watchdog starve."

NCCL hopes to recruit 8,000 new members by the end of 1987. The big push to "swell NCCL" comes after a summer cash crisis, and is intended to provide the Council with a stronger financial base.

NCCL was founded in 1934 and has an enviable record of success in defending and extending civil liberties over the last fifty years.

Members receive regular briefings and newsletters and are encouraged to work in local groups, and volunteer to act as observers at public events.

The NCCL has a Women's Rights Unit with its own special fund and newsletter, and an educational arm, the Cobden Trust, which handles research and publishes its findings.

Membership costs £12 pa for individuals, £15 for household, and there are concessionary rates for students, claimants and prisoners. More details can be obtained by contacting NCCL at 21 Tabard Street, London SE1 4LA.

FREE PRESS

Labour & Liberals welcome Manifesto

Some adjustments had to be made to the Regent's Suite of Eastbourne's Queen's Hotel, where Pat Healy (Wapping Refusenik), Ray Beatty (Liberal Media Working Party) and Mike Jempson (CPBF) were to address Liberal representatives — the walls were bedecked with crude 19th century engravings of cultural stereotypes, but not for long!

The meeting was told of the Eastbourne Watchdog Group which has found a neat way of nudging the local press into covering controversial issues — by circulating the news they won't print — a useful technique that others might like to follow.

In Blackpool Frank Allaun chaired a gathering of 200 in the Winter Gardens.

From the platform Paul Boateng slated the BBC, ITV and mainstream and the alternative Press for not being serious about implementing equal opportunities policies, and Norman Buchan MP insisted that there should be a full debate on arts and media policy at next year's Labour Conference. Other speakers were Clare Short MP and John Jennings for the Campaign.

Another welcome

We are extremely pleased to welcome Kofi Hagan who joins us as a Researcher on Racism and Black issues in the media.

Kofi is a graphic designer and printer, and a free-lance journalist.

Both Kofi and Perminder can be contacted at CPBF on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Listening to community radio

The Campaign has invited a representative of the Community Radio Association to join the National Council to assist in the development of policy on community radio. The CRA's submission to the Home Office for its Green Paper on broadcasting will be the initial basis for discussion.

More power than Mary Whitehouse

The Campaign's Gay & Lesbian Group has won assurances from C4 chief Jeremy Isaacs that his executives will not bow to pressure from the "moral right" over gay and lesbian coverage.

"I can give you an unreserved undertaking that C4 will safeguard your interests in the future by continuing to provide broader representations of lesbians and gays in their lifestyles in our actuality and in our fiction," he told the CBPF delegation. "You have more power than Mary Whitehouse because right is on your side."

"All of us who believe in freedom must stand up and be counted, stand up and use quiet persuasive tones to defend our corner. Channel Four will be in the front of that struggle," he added.

The nine C4 executives rejected the notion that any group has the right to airtime, but Isaacs did say that black lesbian's and gay men could be

catered for in ethnic minority programming, and Gwyn Pritchard (Education) took details of groups concerned with lesbians and gays with disabilities.

The meeting covered a lot of ground, from lack of news and current affairs coverage of homosexual issues and the especially poor deal meted out to lesbians to new programme ideas and the need to incorporate reference to sexuality in C4's equal opportunities policy.

It was a fruitful meeting which needs to be followed up, especially as C4 want programme ideas (dramatising lesbian novels was one suggestion). The CPBF group offered to act as a monitoring and consultative body on relevant issues, and to promulgate C4's receptiveness to suggestions.

Anyone wishing to take this process forward should contact Julianne Dickey on 01-437 2795.



Manchester mugs

NW CPBF have come up with the ideal last minute Christmas present, a red and white campaign mug inscribed with a classic Lowry cartoon.

They are £1 each, but the most convenient way to buy is in boxes of six for £8 (p&p inclusive). Order yours now from Nancy Jaeger, NW-CPBF, 136 Corn Exchange Building, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M4 3BN, while stock lasts.

They can, of course, be used for drinking at all times of the year.

No to Sunday Sport

In October the CPBF Women's Group helped to publicise a rain-drenched protest outside the London offices of *Sunday Sport*, the so-called newspaper that boasts "you'll want to read (it) all week, naughty but nice with girls, girls, girls".

The demonstration was organised by the NUJ London Magazine Branch to coincide with the Women's Rights Day of the S.E. Region of the TUC, as part of their campaign to have *Sunday Sport* consigned to "top shelf" in newsagents as an "adult" (sic) magazine.

Owned by Essex millionaire David Sullivan, whose other interests include sex fantasy magazines and 139 sex shops, *Sunday Sport* averages ten pictures of bare-breasted women per issue, surrounded by salacious copy about rapes and child abuse.

Quite apart from fears that its content and presentation could encourage violence against women, its ready availability to children is also a cause of concern.

The London Magazine Branch are calling on MPs from all parties to back their demands, and anyone wishing to assist their campaign should contact them c/o Acorn House, Grays Inn Road, WC1.

FREE PRESS is still being edited for the National Council by Mike Jempson.

Copy for the FP39 should be typed with double-spacing and sent to the CBBF Office by January 2.

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PLEASE TICK
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(I/We want to join the Campaign for Press & Broadcasting Freedom and enclose a cheque/PO for £

Name/s:

Organisation (if applicable):

Secretary (if different from above):

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Where did you obtain your copy of FREE PRESS?

FILL IN
& SEND OFF
TO CPBF,
9, Poland Street
London W1V 3DG

Boesak blasts the media

Only two British dailies bothered to report Dr Allan Boesak's scathing attack on the British and South African media at a packed meeting in Westminster Central Hall on October 28 — the *Morning Star* (front page) and the *Guardian* (international page).

In a riveting speech he described what the State of Emergency and Apartheid mean in human terms, and condemned the apparent unwillingness of the media to break the news embargo imposed by the racist South African regime.

The Moderator of the Black section of the Dutch Reform Church had broken his return journey to Pretoria after a hectic speaking tour of Europe to spend six hours in London at the invitation of the National Union of Journalists. Almost 500 people attended the hastily called meeting, many of them journalists.

The State of Emergency, he said "means that anyone can be arrested at any time by any member of the security forces without any reason given."

"It means that any premises can be raided at any time by any member of the security forces, again without any reason being given. It means that people can be terrorised and yet there is literally nothing that can be done about it."

He told of a father who had spent three days hitch-hiking 800 kilometres to Cape Town to tell him that the entire young population of a township had been imprisoned.

"I shudder to think what is happening in the rural areas where the press don't even go. What happens to people there will not come out. There are no big names. They are not important people. There is no-one there to tell what is happening."

The British media could do more by employing black journalists to cover the situation in S. Africa, he said, commenting on their reliance on white correspondents for information: "How can they report on what we are thinking so that our world can be reported when it is so difficult for white people even to go into the black townships?"

"I worry about the interpretation of what I think when it comes from a person who doesn't know me well; who lives in a white area; who doesn't know what it is to be confronted by police and tear gas and dogs and guns every day of your life; who doesn't know what it feels like to send children to school and not know whether they will come home tonight or whether they will be alive tonight."

"It is time for newspapers in Britain to do a little more than they have been able to do up to now," he said.

Until the media, inside and outside S. Africa, challenge government censorship, Dr Boesak insisted "I will believe and black people will believe that those newspapers are not there to serve the truth as they should. They are there to cover for white interests politically and economically."

He had scant regard for

By Mike Jempson

simple announcements that normal conditions did not prevail. "Some liberal papers in S. Africa put in a little corner that these reports have been filed under the emergency regulations. I don't think that is particularly brave," he said.

"All those newspapers are owned by Anglo-American, so Anglo-American controls them. Why don't they simply decide that the time has come to speak the truth? Why don't they decide that they will challenge the S. African government? Why don't they decide that they will go to black people to find out exactly what happened in the black areas so that they will be able to report on all the atrocities committed by the security forces?"

Dr Boesak encouraged anti-apartheid campaigners to keep up their work, and spoke of the efforts of black journalists in Cape Province to set up their own



Andrew Ward/REPORT

news agency to keep people informed of the true situation.

Labour Party foreign affairs spokesperson George Robertson MP, journalist Denis MacShane, and Canon Sebastian Charles of Westminster Abbey shared the platform with Dr Boesak.

Others speakers included two British media union leaders recently banned from entering S. Africa. NUJ General Secretary Harry Conroy, who launched an appeal for fund for the Black news agency at a press conference immediately after Dr Boesak spoke, and Brenda Dean, General Secretary of SOGAT 82, who donated £1,000 from her union.

More details and a donation form appear on the back of this FREE PRESS Supplement.

Spy on the subs-desk

In July 1985 John Horak resigned as morning group manager for South African Associated Newspapers (SAAN).

After 27 years in the trade he was regarded as one of SA's most experienced journalists.

In reality he had been working for the SA intelligence services for 20 years and a full-time officer in the security branch of the police since 1978.

Major Horak revealed his dual role at a recent hearing of the Publications Appeal Board when he put the (unsuccessful) police case against the lifting of a ban on a book of black children's writing.

The Nov 5 edition of *The New Nation*, a community-based, national fortnightly set up by the SA Catholic Bishop's Conference, examined his devious past in terms of current censorship practices. Its editor, Zwelakhe Sisulu, was detained by unidentified armed men one night at the start of the latest State of Emergency.

Horak, who spent much of his career as a sub-editor checking other journalist's copy, said "My function was never to report on the press or to infiltrate the press. But while I was in the press, doors that led to intelligence work opened..."

"It was my work to deceive certain people. I am an intelligence man, I am a security man..."

In his present job monitoring "subversive literature", Horak claimed responsibility for

80-90 complaints to the censor this year.

He believed that "Two Dogs and Freedom — Children of the Township Speak Out" was not written by children, but pointed out that the ages of the authors were the same as those who "caused the revolution in Cambodia and Indochina", and described their school as representing "alternative education comparable to indoctrination attempts in South and Central America".

A similar explanation was given by the Publications Committee that originally banned the book, but Horak denied briefing them. The book, he said, "undermines white confidence in the morality of the keepers of the law," and "would evoke great sympathy abroad against this country."

In 1984-5 the police submitted 635 titles for banning (1,134 in 1983-4), customs officials submitted 376, publishers 64, and the Publications Directorate 168. Only 35 were submitted by members of the public.

Just over half were eventually banned. 622 were considered prejudicial to state security, 9 were thought pornographic. Publications by proscribed organisations are not included in these figures — they are banned automatically.

NUJ moves on Apartheid

THE NUJ set up a Committee on South Africa earlier this year to put into effect the Union's extensive anti-apartheid policy agreed at its 1986 annual conference in Sheffield.

The Committee is chaired by

Lionel Morrison, NUJ vice-President, himself an exiled South African journalist and now chief press officer with the Commission for Racial Equality. The vice-chair is another South African, Caroline Southey of the *Financial Times*. An NUJ International Committee member, *Guardian* journalist Aidan White, is the Secretary.

The Committee has boiled down the Union's lengthy policy into a leaflet circulated to every NUJ member in September.

The Committee is now approaching every NUJ chapel with an appeal for practical support for the setting up of

independent black news services in South Africa.

Committee members include Anna Umbima, MoC BBC TV News, Alex Wynter, FoC BBC External Services, Bryan Rostron (*Daily Mirror*), Terry Bell (*Observer*), Jenny Collieson from the book publishing branch, Rizu Hamid, a freelance, Richard Keeble from the (Press and Public Relations Branch), and Mike Jempson (CPBF).

"The committee is not getting involved in any political wrangles. NUJ policy is clear — we support the ANC, the Black Media Workers' Association and the trade union confederations

SACTU and COSATU," says secretary Aidan White. "We are doing practical work to try to get media workers over here to take personal action against apartheid."

Other unions — notably BETA, ACTT, the NGA and Sogat — are being invited to take part in the Committee's work. "We want to try to build a campaign which goes right across the industry. One union can't act alone on apartheid, we need to work together," says White.

Aidan White, c/o NUJ, Acorn House, 314 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1, 01-739 3598 (h), 01-278 2332 (w).

How Afrikanerdom influences British media coverage

Dubious sources

Two areas of the media which the apartheid government in S. Africa has no problems with are the Afrikaans language newspapers and broadcasting, all of which is under the wing of the S. African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC). These form the traditionally reliable outlets for government utterances and attitudes.

Control and manipulation of the media has long been an aim of the apartheid state. Millions of pounds have been spent over the years to bolster the already formidable influence Pretoria has on the information flow, both within and emanating from S. Africa.

A battery of laws covering the registration of newspapers and areas and topics which may not be reported on or photographed ensures that the media projections of the apartheid state are distorted. The present state of emergency, with its emergency regulations, merely makes the manipulations more blatant; the pressures less subtle.

Given the realities of apartheid S. Africa, extreme caution should be exercised about all news emanating from media operating under the existing rules and regulations. But news from such semi-official outlets as the SABC should always be treated for what it is. Even within S. Africa, it is the norm to use the 'semi-official' prefix when referring to the SABC.

Yet the BBC hierarchy instructs its staff *not* to refer to the SABC as in any way state controlled or dominated. According to the Corporation bosses, the SABC is a supposedly independent, 'objective' news gatherer and disseminator; an organisation with which links can be forged and maintained at a variety of levels.

This attitude totally ignores the record of the SABC — one of its recent activities (seen widely as part of the regime's destabilisation policy toward its neighbours) was the broadcasting of 'news' about the 'flight' of Mozambique's government (accompanied by ANC 'terrorists') to an offshore island — and the fact that it is, as a matter of course, run by senior members of the Afrikaner Broederbond (Brotherhood).

By Terry Bell

The Broederbond, founded in 1919 to improve the position of Afrikaners in society, is a highly secretive clique which is today synonymous with Afrikaner power. It is, in fact, an inner cabinet, with chains of command stretching throughout society.

It is the task of the 'broeders' to ensure that the government line is promoted wherever possible. And this line operates at a number of levels, from crude, supportive propaganda to subtle inferences which are calculated to promote certain desired attitudes.

The use of the media as a tool to shape public opinion has long been a near obsession with certain leading Afrikaner nationalists and a great deal of time, money and effort has been spent on researching the field.

Certainly since the early 1960s when then Prime Minister, Hendrik Verwoerd, established the undercover Communication Research Committee within the University of S. Africa in Pretoria, a great deal of research has been undertaken into areas such as subliminal advertising.

This makes all the more sinister the 'official media' within S. Africa. Yet it is precisely to such media that news organisations in Britain such as the BBC turn.

The current fig leaf statement on TV news and in some newspapers: 'This report is compiled subject to... the emergency regulations' can almost be seen as part of the grand manipulation, the perpetuation of the myth that in 'normal' times (ie: non-emergency periods) news reports are free from censorship and the distortions of apartheid society.



S.A. Security forces use tear gas and rubber bull. first time, we cannot reveal when, where and by the north of Ireland.

All the news that's fit to print

Sensational rape and murder stories rather than political news are more likely to win front page headlines in City Press nowadays. "The People's Paper" edited by Percy Qoboza has been taken over by the Afrikaner publishing company Nasionale Pers (NP).

NP has close links with the government, and when it purchased the popular, independent black paper a couple of years ago its contract precluded management interference with editorial content. Observers regard the recent shift towards "human interest" stories as evidence

that this clause is being ignored.

Nonetheless two such front page stories in October offer a grim reminder of the inhumanity and violence that Apartheid inspires.

'Baby-faced killer Johan Wessels looked set to go to the gallows yesterday,' announced the Oct 5 issue. 'Wessels who slashed schoolgirl Elizabeth Mokoena's body after he and his (three) friends raped her in Bethlehem last year — is 18 years old.'

The judge described the rapist and murderer as 'a married man of above average intelligence.'

Wessel's defence had been that he was too drunk to know what he was doing. A psychologist testified that he was a 'shy, withdrawn, sensitive and unaggressive person' who had been affected by a 'troubled relationship' with his father.

'He could have been influenced that night by the alcohol he drank and by the violence in the film "Mad Max", which he had seen earlier,' Professor A Weyers said.

The following week the lead crime story was equally horrific. "I often call people kaffir" says accused', read the headline.

Anton Stoop, and two 22-year old friends Willem Jansen and Johannes Bester, stood accused of murdering David Mthutang.

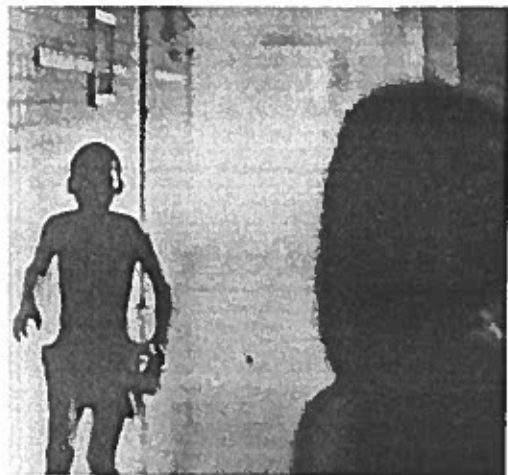
In a sworn statement Stoop said he saw a 'kaffir' run past his car as he drove in Witpoortjie on Feb 24 this year.

He stopped and chased the 'kaffir'. He punched and kicked him before he was joined by the others.

Asked in court what was in his mind Stoop 'just shrugged'.

'You specifically chased and assaulted him because he was black. You didn't care a hoot what could happen to him, even if he died,' said the Prosecutor, and asked what kind of person 'could drive a car over a man lying on the ground and set light to him while he was still alive?'

The accused admitted that their victim's body had been put in the boot of Stoop's car, driven away, then taken out and burned. Medical experts testified that Mthutang had been set alight while he was still alive. His body was found near Sterkfontein Mental Hospital the following day.



wardly attack on a black school. Published for the
y were taken. Images reminiscent of Vietnam and

"Don't call us, we'll call you"

A recent BBC survey calculated that there had been a 60% drop in the amount of information coming out of S. Africa since the imposition of the State of Emergency on 12 June 1986.

From 26 Sept., the S. African government's Bureau for Information, the only official source of news since the declaration of the State of Emergency, closed its media centre in Pretoria in the interests of "accuracy" following criticism from opposition groups for dispensing inaccurate information. Although the Bureau will continue to publish a daily report on civil unrest in the country it will no longer answer telephone enquiries.

● Johan Coetzee, S. African Chief of Police, has re-imposed drastic curbs on media coverage of political violence invalidated by the Natal Supreme Court in August. Journalists are banned from being "within sight" of any unrest, restricted gathering or action by the Security Forces. This includes appearing at funeral ceremonies. In other words, it has become an offence for reporters to even watch the police in action. At the same time the Minister of Manpower, Pietie du Plessis, threatened government action against trade unions that "are taking part in pure politics or are striving towards dubious political goals."

● On 4 Sept a ruling by the Natal division of the Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg declared invalid two emergency regulations empowering the Minister of Law and Order to seize and ban any publications which he considers contains subversive material. However, this ruling does not overturn the curbs imposed by Coetzee.

● Also on 4 Sept attempts by Soweto residents to hold a mass funeral and burial of those killed the previous week when twenty-one people were shot to death during a rent strike in Soweto, was broken up by the police and army who described the funeral as an "illegal gathering". About 5,000 people attended.

● The SABC decided at the last minute to stop all direct television transmission of Desmond Tutu's enthronement as Archbishop of Cape Town on 7 Sept. It was decided to allow only pre-recorded extracts to be shown, out of fear at what the Archbishop might say in his address.

● The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists has expressed its concern over the repeated raids on the offices of the Press Trust of South Africa by security forces, and the threats to prosecute the news agency's editor, Marimuthu Subramoney.

● When we went to press, four foreign journalists have been expelled from S. Africa: Wim de Vos; Richard Manning; Heinrich Buettgen; Dan Sagir.

The following S. African journalists are still in detention: Alison Billing; M. J. Fuzile; Bridget Hilton-Barber; Humphrey Joseph; Eric Linde; Mike Loewe; Vandiislie Manoma; Phila Ngqumba; Reggie Oliphant; Brian Sekoto; Clive Stuurman; Danny Stuurman; John Stuurman; Mathata Tsedu.

For more information: INDEX ON CENSORSHIP, 39c Highbury Place, London N5 1QP.

The perspective of the oppressed

Tim Jarvis/Link



Defiant gesture from UDF supporter at the funeral of Mathew Goniwe in Cradock, Eastern Cape, 1985. Mandela's face is better known abroad than in S.A. since it is illegal to publish a prisoner's photograph.



ERIC MILLER/AFRICA

One child in her arms, another in police hands — a mother shares her suffering at a tea party organised by the Detainees' Parents' Support Committee in Johannesburg, August 1986.

The project that the NUJ is backing is one of several initiatives by Black journalists and their supporters to develop a system for disseminating news and information from the perspective of oppressed people in South Africa.

Other strands in their strategy include a training scheme for Black journalists and a weekly newspaper.

The independent news agency project will feed progressive news organisations in S. Africa as well as the Western and Eastern "blobs", anti-Apartheid and Church groups and others who are monitoring repression in S. Africa or assisting in the liberation struggle.

In their founding document the project co-ordinators speak of "the ironic situation where news organisations in countries supportive of the oppressed people of S. Africa, disseminate news based on information supplied by the S. African government's propaganda organs."

And they express regret

that "no creative efforts are being made to bypass the restrictions and supply the international community with information on events in S. Africa."

Overseas media representatives gather their data from the syndication services of organisations that are broadly sympathetic to or directly connected with the Apartheid regime — commercial newspaper chains, the SA Broadcasting Corporation, and the SA Press Association (SAPA) which is "dependent on official, semi-official and local newspapers for its supply of news material."

The news agency will cover Cape Province in the first instance, and forge links with similar agencies elsewhere with the eventual aim of establishing "a

national media chain".

It will be managed by a Trust that will include representatives of the black townships in Eastern and Western Cape Province.

Diane Bishop of Black Sash; Dr Allan Boesak; Professor Jakes Gerwel rector-designate of the University of Western Cape; Essa Moosa, vice-chair of the Democratic Lawyers Association; and Dr Charles Vicencio, head of religious studies at the University of Cape Town have already agreed to act as Trustees.

To get the agency off the ground they will need about £10,000. Their shopping list of equipment includes a computer terminal, with modems and assorted software; a photocopier, office furniture, photographic equipment and tape recorders; a landline machine and the lease of telex machines. The NUJ has pledged itself to covering the cost of all these items by March 1987.

"I hope we will raise £20,000," said NUJ General Secretary Harry Conroy, launching the appeal at the public meeting addressed by Dr Boesak in October. Over £1,500 was collected at the meeting. By November another £1,000 had been raised.

THE EMERGENCY

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