

# FREE 30p PRESS

JOURNAL OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR  
PRESS AND BROADCASTING FREEDOM

No 39

FEBRUARY 1987

## Wapping — one year on

By Mike Power

A police riot marked the first anniversary of the strike and subsequent sacking of 5,500 workers Rupert Murdoch from his Wapping fortress.

More than 20,000 supporters of the strikers came from all over Britain with banners indicating widespread support from trade unions, community and political groups.

Organisers planned a rally followed by an event with well known bands and entertainers intended to give a post-Christmas morale boost to the strikers and their families. And to refute Murdoch's assertion on Panorama that Wapping was "a localised dispute that no one supports".

They were met by a police attack that was more ferocious than that witnessed last May.

Indiscriminate baton charges by riot and mounted police made casualties of a BBC camera operator, a press reporter, photographs and legal observers who were clearly identified, as well as dozens of others who had gathered to peacefully protest.

These tactics reflect a more powerful and concentrated police operation than that experienced in the coal dispute, with a greater ratio of arrests of strikers among the printers than that suffered by the miners.

Cont. p2

## LEGISLATING FOR THE MEDIA

CPBF MEDIA MANIFESTO CONFERENCE

Sat 4 April 1987  
University of London Union

Delegates and individual members should book their places now.

## VIEWS ON SUNDAY

EXCLUSIVE!  
The DATE you've all  
been waiting for —  
INSIDE

Who gave whom the old heave-ho?

# GERTCHA!

Sutton stays as  
Pilger blasts off

WE ASK — is this  
the start of a  
Left-wing SUN  
or a socialist soap?

REVEALED — names,  
dates and dummy  
details — all in our full,  
frank and exclusive  
look at the antidote  
to Murdoch, Maxwell,

Rowlands and the rest ... SEE p 6



● Scotlands own News on Sunday

## Pre-election media clampdown

The world is being treated to the sight of an authoritarian government resorting to squalid methods of censorship in an election year, to control what the public should know about its methods of operation.

But even at the last election few people would have imagined that this would ever be said about Britain. Now there is overwhelm-

ing evidence that the Thatcher administration is set upon intimidating public service broadcasting.

The unashamed Tory onslaught on the BBC, and against those who seek to query its commitment to open government, has continued with the banning of the "Zircon film" and Special Branch raids on the New Statesman and the home of journalist Duncan Campbell.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock has wrong-footed his Party's ability to

defend press and broadcasting freedom by falling in step with Tory claims that national defence is at stake.

CPBF members must join in the chorus of protest, and oppose suggestions that the notorious Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act may be wheeled out to crush investigative reporting.

# London launch for Manifesto

The well-attended London launch of the Media Manifesto was held against the background of recent Conservative Party attacks on the BBC and a parliamentary debate that same day on the Peacock Committee report.

Liz Short, a sacked News International worker, said it was now difficult to counter the impression given by the media that the dispute was no longer 'news'. The workers, like others before them, were cut off from one of the things they needed most: publicity.

They also had to struggle against the bias of the media who report, for instance, the number of police injured in any confrontation but will not mention the number of wounded pickets.

Norman Buchan MP, coming from the debate in the House of Commons, attacked the Conservative view that 'freedom' in the media equals deregulation.

The answer to deregulation, he felt, was to create freedom through diversity, using new technology progressively, and regulating to open up access to working people.

Preethi Manuel from the CPBF's Black Group said there was little progress to report in a system which still had mainly white, male and middle-class values.

To tackle this, she said, we need to concentrate on the questions of content, structure and the means of production. Social dimensions such as sexism, racism and classism should neither be ignored by the media nor perpetuated by them.

The viewpoints of those now excluded from the media need to be heard and the world needs to be represented through other eyes than those of the Western News agencies.

Policies such as 'integrated casting' could help to counter under-representation in the media while effective redress against unjust coverage is needed to counter misrepresentation.

She applauded union refusals to handle South African materials but added that action needs to be taken against NUJ members who infringed anti-sexism and anti-racism guidelines.

Preethi also spoke of the CPBF's education group, recently formed to ensure that media education is introduced into the curriculum in a more coherent manner, encouraging active rather than passive participation in the media.

Both Paddy Leach (BETA) and Don Brind (NUJ), described some of the effects of Tebbitt's attacks on the BBC. Paddy Leach said that the attacks were intended to discredit and destabilise the BBC in order that it could eventually be privatised more easily.

Don Brind pointed out the novelty of the present Tory offensive being based on a market-restructuring and asset-stripping approach. He also informed the meeting of joint ACTT-NUJ reforms on the Right of Reply and the democratic restructuring of the BBC.

Summing up the meeting, co-sponsored by the South East Region TUC, Tom O'Halley said the Media Manifesto proposals need the fullest and widest discussion if it is to assist the struggle to make the media more democratic and accountable.

John Shuttleworth

## Action on media racism

\* Following complaints from the CPBF about misreporting of the recent visa issue, the Ethics Council of the NUJ has decided to hold a formal hearing about an article in The Star by Ray Mills.

Seven other complaints will be dealt with under the Council's conciliation procedure.

\* Yasmin Ali and Adotey Bing addressed the wider issues that flow from racism in the media at a very successful seminar organised recently by the CPBF Black Group.

The Black Group has a number of further meetings and seminars planned. The next will focus on the Media Manifesto.

For details contact Kofi or Perminder at the Campaign Office 01 437 2795.

## CENSORAMA DRAMA

A great time was had at London's Piccadilly Theatre on Dec 7. Over 900 people turned up for CENSORAMA, and the queue of performers waiting to go on stage was so long the show over-ran by 90 minutes.

Among those who wowed them in the aisles were Denise Black and the Kray Sisters, Craig Charles, Jenny Lecoat, Parker & Klein, Raw Sex, the Vicious Brothers, Benjamin Zephaniah and a brilliant comedian from the Graeae Theatre, Julie Felix made a spectacular comeback, and the Guo Brothers were a big hit with their haunting Chinese folk music.

Sarah Tisdall, Ken Livingstone and Des Wilson re-enacted Yes Minister, and other celebrities taking part included Beverley Anderson, Linda Bellas, Sue Cook, Vincent Hannah, Fred Molina, Frances Morrell, Sue Cook, and Tom Watt.

And Happy End lived up to their name with a swinging finale.

But if CENSORAMA was a huge success on stage, and earned the Campaign plenty of publicity and goodwill, it lost money at the box office.

So watch out for news of future fundraising events. Among those not available for CENSORAMA but are keen to help are Sade and the Communards.

If you couldn't make it but would like to know what you missed, the splendid souvenir programme (with cartoons and quotable quotes) is on sale for £1 (half price) from the office.

And you can buy Campaign Badges reading "CENSORED" or "WOT, ME BIASED?" (choice of red or blue on white), price 25p (plus 20p p&p) from the office.

## Wapping cont.

Nearly 2,000 Wapping arrests represents one to every three strikers compared to one in ten miners. Print activists are languishing in prison and many more await trial on conspiracy to cause criminal damage charges which often lead to prison terms.

Throughout the year individual suffering has been severe. Five people have died directly as a result of the strike, including Michael Delaney a 19 year old East-ender who was run down by a TNT lorry.

Minutes after he died a police radio message was picked up which cold bloodedly stated "they needn't worry he wasn't a picket so they haven't got a martyr".

Two known suicides have been committed and two members of one small NGA chapel are in hospital with nervous breakdowns. And over 400 serious injuries have been sustained by pickets. Police have received over £5 million in overtime pay.

Marriage break downs and losses of homes among strikers have hit hard as will the ending of up to £30 a week unemployment benefit, with no automatic right to DHSS payments. However despite these tribulations 4,000 remain on strike. They have twice rejected Murdoch's £50 million redundancy offer in secret ballots and only a minority have accepted his offer to apply individually for payment.

One year after their dismissal for taking perfectly legal strike action the News International workforce still demand jobs and union rights. They will not go away because they have nowhere to go — during the past twelve months more than

10,000 jobs have been lost in national newspapers and the general printing industry is shrinking — thereby closing many options for alternative employment. However if these enormous sacrifices are to be redeemed then the dispute needs a massive boost.

The TUC must be forced to carry out its own policy and instruct the EETPU to withdraw from Wapping. They should also lead a major national "Boycott Murdoch" campaign, which highlights the lack of trade union and press freedom behind the razor wire. The print unions need to initiate a national effort by its rank and file to extend contacts and solidarity around the country, and this should lead to a massive lobby of parliament. Demonstrations and pickets must be maintained and built to keep the spotlight on Murdoch's activities.

The men and women who have kept faith night and day for a year on the Wapping picket line are a focus for every one concerned with press freedom, union rights and the right to work — they deserve greater support and solidarity.

# Flying into the wind?

One of the reasons why press and broadcasting freedom is not a central issue in education is that there is still very little media teaching in schools.

Media Studies courses do run, but so far they do not reach very many children. However a recent development means that this may soon change.

As part of a pilot scheme, David Leland's challenging television film, *Flying into the Wind*, was set as part of the 'O' Level English Literature examination. The scheme is now complete, and a report on it has now recommended that all be allowed to study television as part of English Literature. As over 90% of all children study the subject, this would mean hundreds of thousands of children might soon be studying television. Already one GCSE board has set Leland's film.

The report stresses that the video, and not the script, should be the "object of study". This will mean that schools will have to undertake some Media Study in order to prepare pupils, and this should give a great boost to the study of the media in schools.

Paul Kelly, Literacy Project  
(for a copy of the report, or further information, please contact Paul Kelly, Hereford School, Glimsby, Humbs. DN34 5AH).

Sensationalism and stigma surround mental illness. NICOLA FIELD apportions some of the blame.

## Public Image: Private Pain

*"People in mental or emotional distress carry, as an extra burden, the full weight of society's ignorance and prejudice. It is vital that negative images and stereotypes are confronted if people are ever to live at peace in the community. People with mental illnesses are discriminated against in housing, employment, leisure and every other social activity. The media, employers and service providers must join together to combat discrimination in all its forms."*

Chris Heginbottom, National Director, MIND

Media coverage of mental health issues was on the agenda at November's annual conference organised by MIND, the National Association for Mental Health.

800 people attended the conference, entitled 'Public Image: Private Pain', tackled "the fundamental issue of the public images of 'mental illness' — how they are formed, what effect they have on the lives of people who have been labelled as mentally ill, and how positive attitudes can be promoted."

Press and television portrayals of mental health problems and issues were the subjects of five of the workshops held, where speakers and contributors discussed lack of coverage in the media, of the dangerous condition of mental health services, as well as metaphors and labelling which refer to mental illness and distort its meaning.

The ways in which we are all socialised into becoming afraid of mental 'illness' was the context of a debate which acknowledged media representation as a powerful manipulator of fears about 'losing control' and perceptions of people who have or have had mental health problems.

A month of cuttings from the *Daily Mirror* were shown as examples. Accurate coverage was noticeable by its absence, and only one piece was not directly abusive and did not use an image of mental illness to make a joke or provoke panic.

The press isn't short on references to mental illness, but uses of words like "psychopathic",

"schizophrenic", "neurotic" and "hysterical" link mental illness to criminality, irresponsibility and violence.

Even when reports are less inaccurate, sensational headlines such as "Psycho Rapist On Run", "Boat Maniac Kills Two", "Axeman Is Caged" gain disturbingly successful entertainment value.

Metaphors of madness are also used to discredit individuals and groups.

Labour controlled local authorities are referred to as "the loony left" when they promote policies aimed at reducing discrimination against oppressed groups in our society.

Arthur Scargill was described during the pit dispute as being "stark, staring mad".

Words and phrases like "crazy", "insane", "round the bend" "out of your mind" have gained currency as descriptions of people we disagree with or don't understand. Reinforced by constant labelling and metaphorical references in the press, our ideas about mental illness are informed and distorted by fear and ignorance.

Mental illness is identified with abnormality and it is used by people trying to dissociate how they are from how other people are. To be seen as "sane" or "mentally healthy" is to be taken seriously, to be judged important, adjusted and acceptable.

"Socialist Worker" was in such demand the week after the American bombing of Libya it had to be reprinted. The front headline read "Reagan Is The Real Madman". Metaphors of madness, it seems, sell papers.

Other workshops looked at the profile of mental health issues on television. Concentrating in particular on the recent C4 documentary "We're Not Mad — We're Angry" the makers of the programme discussed how to use the media and become part of the production process.

Revolving around the issue of self-representation the workshops debated differences between programmes made by people involved in mental health and those made about mental illness. This raised questions about how the structures of the television and press industries foster misinformation. One effect of this tradition of journalism is that it gives temporary doses of publicity to newsworthy scandals but fails to sustain the kind of constructive exposure which could initiate lasting change.

Whistleblower investigations into public services only result in minimal reform. Media coverage never researches or calls for a fundamental long-term restructuring of mental health services, it only points out flaws which might then get patched up.

The Mental Health Film Council, set up in association with MIND to promote debate about mental illness as portrayed in the media, ran a workshop on how a code of practice could be drawn up and implemented.

Reference to mental illness can be debated along with racism, sexism and heterosexism in the press and on T.V., and forms an important part of the discussion about disability.

MIND can be contacted on 637 0741. People wishing to initiate or organise regional CPBF sub-groups on mental health can publicise their ideas in *Free Press*.

CHRIS DAVIES watches an empty gesture fade from BBC schedules.

## FAZED OUT

In October, as part of its new Daytime programme, the BBC launched "One In Four", a 15-minute programme for people with disabilities and their carers. It has turned out to be a wasted opportunity.

Unlike its ITV equivalent ("Link") — "One In Four" has a national audience and therefore greater potential. But its short duration, determination to cram in short items, and bland and twee packaging all combine to make a programme designed to be inoffensive to able-bodied viewers and thus tokenistic to people with disabilities.

Given its persistence with trivia, it met with a lack of response from viewers which is hardly surprising.

The BBC's reaction to viewers' disinterest has been to reschedule "One In Four".

From January, instead of the present 15-minutes weekly, it will have 30-minutes monthly. It will be moved from morning to afternoon.

A cynic would say that by lowering its profile through more infrequent programmes, the BBC is putting "One In Four" in a position where it can be more easily abandoned.

After fifty years of TV this is the BBC's first gesture toward recognition of an audience of people with disabilities.

The tragedy is the gesture is so empty that, if it is killed off, "One In Four" may never be missed.

### 1987 STAFF APPEAL

The Campaign desperately needs £10,000 to sustain its expanding workload over the coming year. Without the resources to employ staff the range of our activities will be seriously curtailed. If you are in work — why not make a monthly donation to assist the Campaign. Every little helps.

#### BANKERS STANDING ORDER FORM

To the Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Bank (yours)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your account name \_\_\_\_\_

A/c \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay the Co-operative Bank plc, 1, Islington High Street, London N1 9TR (Code 08 90 33) for the account of The Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom (A/c No 50508701) the sum of: £ \_\_\_\_\_ (amount in figures)

on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of each month, from \_\_\_\_\_ (date) (month) 1987, until countermanded by me,

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to CPBF, 9 Poland St, London W1V 3DG.

**SIMON COLLINGS** reports on an American version of the CPBF which is having to counter the latest upsurge in Cold War hysteria.

# Beating off the backlash

Inspired by the example of the CPBF a group of journalists in the US last year launched their own campaign with the aim of providing a progressive critique of bias in the American media.

The new organisation is called For Accuracy In Reporting (FAIR) and has offices in New York and Los Angeles.

The Director is Jeff Cohen a journalist and former American Civil Rights Union lawyer. Its Advisory Board includes Ed. Asner, Naom Chomsky, Allen Ginsberg, Bob Katz and Studs Terkel.

The need for a campaign in the US has been brought into stark relief in recent years as the mainstream media has become increasingly conservative. Corporate mergers in the media have accelerated, threatening to further limit the spectrum of viewpoints which have access.

In addition well financed rightwing groups like Accuracy in Media (AIM)

regularly attack the media for being too 'liberal'.

FAIR has demonstrated that this situation can be changed. FAIR spokespeople have already participated in numerous television and radio talk shows. Columns by FAIR writers have appeared in more than a dozen leading dailies. Through telegrams, letter-writing campaigns and demonstrations, FAIR has confronted TV stations and networks over imbalanced programming.

FAIR's activities will emphasise three interrelated areas: monitoring news bias in the coverage of specific issues or

groups; publicising research findings; and agitating for change.

At the end of 1986 a major campaign was launched around a projected ABC mini-series called 'Amerika', a drama/documentary portraying a Soviet invasion of the US with UN troops used as a proxy army. FAIR is seeking to ensure that if the series is screened, a balanced studio discussion follows. The UN, meanwhile, are taking legal advice about the unauthorised use of their logo in the programme.

In Britain the CPBF has been alerting individuals and organisations to the issues involved in case there are moves to show the series here, a small first step in transatlantic cooperation. This is an area of work which we hope will grow in the coming months.

## CHALLENGING THE CENSORS

Media bosses from the "free world" gathered at London's plush Inter-Continental Hotel in January to "identify and implement practical ways of fighting news media censorship."

But their recommendations failed to tackle the real reasons for the disproportionate level of press censorship in the South.

They were based on assumptions that the economy, social and cultural norms and political systems of the South are on a par with those of Western nations and ignored the realities of neo-colonialism.

They demanded that independent media should be allowed to emerge and operate in all countries; government media should enjoy editorial independence; and national frontiers should be open to foreign journalists: calls to be welcomed by any lover of freedom.

But it is important to understand why the beleaguered government of an impoverished nation might react negatively to media controlled by a doctrinaire Catholic Church, an arm of the Murdoch empire, or a private firm owned by a comrador in a struggling Sahel country.

The issue is not just about morality — it is about control and accountability of the

media, and consultation between public authorities and media workers about the socio-economic realities of development.

Economic constraints make it impossible for state and private media in the South to sustain the quality of coverage expected in the West — lack of newsprint, inks, reference materials, transport, technology etc.

The conference provided vivid examples of censorship throughout the world, but took care to distance itself from the UNESCO's support for a new international information order.

Instead of uprooting journalists and training them in the media ways of the West, as was suggested, there should be more encouragement, for instance, for attempts to set up a Pan Africa News Agency to counter the sensational, unanalytical and often provocatively racist material churned out by capitalist news agencies like Reuters, AFP and UPI upon which the West relies so heavily for its coverage of African affairs.

Kofi Hagan

### INDEX ON CENSORSHIP

Open any one of the more serious newspapers, or watch the BBC or ITV news on practically any day and you will find some bad news about South Africa — despite the far-reaching restrictions imposed by the Botha government last year.

It is right that this should be so, and it goes some way to showing that such restrictions can, to a large extent, be counter-productive. It is, however, striking how little we hear about the lack of free expression and the abuse of human rights in other African countries.

"Only in five African countries (Senegal, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Tunisia and Botswana) is there even limited press freedom," wrote George Ayittay, a Ghanaian-born professor now living in America, in a thoughtful article in our Jan issue.

In the same issue we carried a second instalment of Gavin Stewart's "diary" concerning the intimidation and prosecution of journalists in South Africa, taking the sorry tale up to the middle of November 1986. With it was a list of journalists detained in South Africa under the terms of the "emergency" of 12 June last year.

An even longer list of people detained without trial accompanied an article on recent political arrests in Kenya.

And Kabral Blay-Amihere, Editor of the *Free Press* in Ghana, wrote explaining the circumstances that led to the closure of that country's last remaining independent newspaper in April 1986.

If any reader would like to try and help a detained journalist by sending a letter appealing on his or her behalf to the government concerned, my colleagues and I will gladly provide names and addresses.

Contact us at: Index on Censorship, 39C Highbury Place, London N5 1QP.

George Theiner



## Prisoners of Conscience in Paraguay

ISAAC VILLALBA & OSCAR ACOSTA

Oscar Acosta is a 30 year old journalist with Radio Nanduti, which is currently being constantly jammed by the authorities. He was arrested on 21 December and is being held without charge or trial.

On 22 November he had been beaten up by police, who insulted him and Radio Nanduti at a peaceful demonstration. Amnesty International fears that he may be undergoing torture.

His colleague, Isaac Villalba, was arrested on 31 December, and Amnesty International has received reports that he has been tortured. His torturers reportedly asked which hand he held the microphone with, and then broke the hand with a hammer.

Amnesty International considers both these men have been detained because of their work as journalists with Radio Nanduti, and is calling for their immediate release.

Appeals can be sent to:

Exmo. Sr. Presidente de la Republica  
General de Ejercito Alfredo Stroessner  
Palacio de Gobierno  
Asuncion  
Paraguay

With election fever in the air, MIKE JEMPSON examines the prospects for NEWS ON SUNDAY.

## GOOD TIDINGS?

Sunday 5 April, the day of the Campaign's AGM, is the most likely date for the long-awaited launch of NEWS ON SUNDAY.

The ambitious project for a radical, left-of-centre tabloid is cutting its own deadlines fine.

By mid-January only half the fifty journalistic posts had been filled. NOS say the rest should be in post or appointed by mid-February, when the company issues its prospectus to raise £1.7 million from individual investors under the government's Business Expansion Scheme.

The task of selecting from thousands of hopefuls was set back six weeks by internal conflict over the style and content of the paper and the respective powers of the Editor and Editor-in-Chief, a struggle that had been resolved before John Pilger, one of the originators of the project, went public with his resignation.

As Editor-in-Chief he had been critical of Editor Keith Sutton, but was unwilling to work full-time or move to Manchester himself. The Board opted to make his role advisory, and backed Sutton's team-work approach.

No-one wanted Pilger to go, and there were mixed feelings about his ferocious attack on NOS in the New Statesman.

Sutton denies the allegation that he wants to create a "left-wing Sun" while admitting that he acknowledges the pulling power of some Sun front pages. Market research predicts a million sales a week, mostly north of London, and Sutton doesn't want NOS bracketed with

any other paper on the news-stands.

It aims to "take the side of the individual against the Establishment" and "challenge authority rather than grovel before it", while supplying information and entertainment.

Meanwhile former Guardian business manager Gerry Taylor has taken over from Alan Hayling as interim Chief Executive, to allow the Founder-member to help supervise journalistic appointments with Sutton.

Those already in post include freelance TV writer Belkis Bhegani; columnist Anna Coote, who chaired the CPBF before going to Diverse Productions; and former City Limits Music Editor Sheryl Garrett.

Chris Horrie of Sanity and National Student is to edit the Colour Section; Kolton Lee, former Editor of black paper The Voice, is Assistant Editor News; Alison MacDonald from Woman magazine is Features Editor; Polly Pattullo of the Observer magazine is Assistant Editor Features; Brian Whitaker, author of News Ltd, is Deputy Editor. Sports Editor is Bob Edwells of the Daily Mail, his deputy Matthew Nugent of Newline.

To ensure that the paper's commitment to equal opportunities is translated into jobs in all parts of the company, one of the earliest appointments was Christine Jackson whose EOC background informs her personnel function.

## The shape of things to come

The latest round of pre-launch dummies from NOS are much lighter weight than the blockbuster produced during the feasibility study but show a distinct improvement.

The layout is much more consistent; there are fewer but plenty of pictures; and where colour is used it works better.

The Colour Section still hasn't got its act together, and I found the main edition front page none too thrilling.

The sports pages remain male-dominated, and the "Sun" jibes are no doubt aimed at the rather laboured frivolity of the fillers, a soppy story about Russell Grant and the Pope, and a tone of condescension in some contributions.

My own bit of market research among neighbours in East London suggests that a few copies of the Sunday Mirror may be cancelled from April, but not the Mail or Express. General disappointment that Wapping got no mention, but one ex-patriot Scot was overjoyed at the Scottish edition.

Those brought up on Sunday Times Insight investigations may not be satisfied, but there is an intriguing backgrounder on the killing of Comrade Machel and an excellent special report on breast cancer.

News On Sunday eventually hopes to have 12 regional editions, backed up by a support network including local offices and staff.

A series of 94 local meetings start shortly to draw in potential investors and those with little cash to spare but plenty of time and enthusiasm.

Tony Cook is the National Regional Groups Manager whose job is to build a membership structure that will allow readers, supporters and investors to play a part in the development of the paper.

Regional groups will have a say in recruitment of local staff and may send delegates to a national council. Eventually this body may win a seat on the Board, but in the meantime regional views will be represented on the Executive of News On Sunday by Tony Cook.

Anyone wishing to discover more about NOS, the BES investment scheme or regional groups should contact: Kevin Mousley (PR), Tony Cooke or Ben Lowe (regional organisation) at the Manchester Office, or ask for Phillipa Usher.

In London the names to ask for are John Hoyland, Chris Walsh or Pauline Wood, their PA.

NOS Manchester,  
7th Floor, Bridgewater House,  
Whitworth Street, M1 6LP  
Tel: 061 236 7474

NOS London,  
31 Corsham Street,  
N1  
Tel: 01 253 7876



On the 64 staff employed by mid-January, 49% were women and 14% from ethnic minorities. Some recruitment has been achieved through a Black Outreach project in Greater Manchester using people from 11 different ethnic backgrounds to encourage interest in employment on the paper.

To counter discrimination NOS hopes to provide training for those who might otherwise never be considered eligible for national newspaper jobs.

### Control systems

The Editor will be in sole charge of the day to day workings of News on Sunday. The Board of Management of News On Sunday Publishing plc, and its Executive Committee, will run the business.

An independent Founder's Trust will act as the 'conscience' of the company, to ensure that it does not stray from the path laid out in its Charter. The Trust has three places on the Board of Management; another three are set aside for workers' representatives.

By virtue of a 'Golden Share', a device dreamt up by Thatcher, the Founders have the power of veto on important Board decisions such as the appointment of the Editor, and can stop anyone attempting to purchase more than 15% of shares in the company.

Half the current Founders' Trust are women — Joan Bohanna (trades unionist at Glaxo in Liverpool), Kerry Brown (publishing background), Maxime Johnson (former teacher in higher education) from Manchester, and Jo Robinson from London.

The others are Joe Farrag from a Liverpool Advice Centre; Mike Power (Daily Mail NGA FOC and vice chair CPBF); Steve Riley (Fords, Dagenham) and Kit Sadgrove (London-based market research).

Among the original Founders now employed full-time by the company are Chris Walsh as head of Marketing and Ben Lowe, responsible for regional development.

## ADVERTISING HOMOPHOBIA

I founded The Gentlemen's Bureau in July 1986, as an introduction service for the 'professional non-scene homosexual male'.

It is the first company catering specifically for homosexuals to have received a direct government subsidy under The Government Enterprise Scheme. This decision proved controversial and The Daily Mirror ran a small snide piece entitled Handout For Lonely Gays.

Ads for TGB have since appeared in The Guardian, New Statesman, London Review of Books, Spectator, Labour Weekly, Tribune, Marxism Today, Money Magazine and City Limits and have been accepted by The Literary Review and Plays and Players. After protracted effort The Encounter eventually said yes. But the ad has been declined by several other publications — running TGB has been an object-less-on in injustice.

The Daily Telegraph said that since my ad was not for a marriage bureau it was unacceptable, thus precluding any homosexual organisation from advertising in their columns.

It was similarly declined by The Sunday Telegraph. The Times refused to give any reason for refusing my ad, saying that it was simply 'of a nature we prefer not to accept' — a decision echoed by The Sunday Times. The Financial Times asked to 'be excused' from printing the ad as they had just decided not to print ads for any introduction service, very shortly after I submitted mine.

At first it looked like plain sailing with The Independent but I later received a letter stating that they did not wish to carry my ad. When I phoned Andreas Whittam-Smith for an explanation, his secretary said an editorial meeting was discussing my ad — it upheld the initial decision.

Audrey Slaughter, Editor of The Independent's Living page, refused to consider covering The Bureau: "I would not wish to do anything which would encourage

New media charity set up

# Digging into the background

Supporters of the Campaign for Press & Broadcasting Freedom have launched a charitable Media Research Trust to investigate neglected aspects of the British media.

the spread of AIDS" — An ironic observation since the men who come to me are monogamous and, anyway, homosexuality is not synonymous with AIDS.

On Thursday 27 Nov I phoned Alan Coren, Editor of Punch to ask why he had turned down the ad. It was a very depressing experience. He has since denied everything but I have long been in the habit of taking notes when I speak to journalists and I have his unpleasant words verbatim.

Mr Coren told Andy Bell of Time Out that if he quoted them he would issue a writ. Stephen Cook of The Guardian said Mr Coren used the "battering-up" approach with him.

In a letter to me on Dec 8, Coren wrote:

*"I am bothered by all this — a call from Time Out was made to ascertain whether I had indeed said I hate all homosexuals and wish them dead from AIDS.*

*"You, unless you were so incensed as not to be able to hear, know that what I actually said was that while I personally find homosexuality to be an unattractive way of passing the time, I wish no-one ill and pray for a cure for AIDS.*

*"I should have thought it was obvious why no magazine at the moment would feel comfortable about increasing the chance of casual contact. Surely you agree?"*

I believe the massive prejudice Coren evinces must be exposed before it can ever be printed.

In the next FREE PRESS I'll chart the progress of TGB ads among provincial newspapers.

Peter Robinson



Beverley Anderson

Lesley Wood

Former CPBF Secretary John Jennings, former Information Officer Lesley Wood, and former National Organiser Mike Power are among the Trustees. The others are Beverley Anderson, Benny Bunsee, James Curran and Sandra Horne.

The trustees met on December 8th to outline their plans, which include a major fundraising effort in 1987. Among the projects they will seek funding for are studies of media racism, media education resources, the European media, and ways of achieving the Right of Reply.

Campaign members are encouraged to support the Media Research Trust through donations, covenants and offers of help with its fund-raising and research efforts. Members wishing to assist the MRT should use the form at the foot of this page.

For the time being the MRT can be contacted via the CPBF office, and it will operate from 9 Poland Street.



## Media Research Trust

(Charity Trust No: 295269)

9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG. Telephone: 01-437 0189

Established in 1986 to research and disseminate information about the ownership, structure, distribution, consumption, control and influence of the media.

### Launch Appeal

To get the MRT off the ground we need your help — to build a reference library, furnish an office, and establish useful contacts. But we also need your financial backing. As a charity we are able to operate a covenant scheme, which means we can recoup the tax you pay on regular donations.

Please make a donation NOW, and send for details of the MRT Covenant Scheme.

All donors will be kept informed of the MRT's work.

Donation enclosed: £ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a covenant form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cheques should be made payable to the Media Research Trust and sent with this form to MRT c/o Julianne Dickey, CPBF, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG.

## TV ad in hot water

Black musicians, cultural activists and media workers have objected to a current advert on C4 that evokes images of the jungle, with missionaries in a pot of hot water stirred by singing, dancing goony-type creatures.

Last November the CPBF Black Group raised its objections to the "Ovallina and the hot pot" ad proposed by Lowe Howard-Spink, when ancestral African music group Dade Krama had been asked to provide the score.

In response, a Mr Theobalds, Senior Advertising Control Officer at the IBA said over the phone: "The caricatures in the ad are white, and no white person has indeed complained about this..."

Replying for his boos on Dec 31, Ms Yvonne Millwood wrote: "We are sorry indeed that you are offended by the advertisement — as no doubt the advertiser ... would be ... but this would not justify any action being taken against the advertisement which does not appear to cause general worry."

The incident points up the need for the Black Group, and other members of the CPBF, to keep up and co-ordinate pressure over such ads. It also highlights another important aspect of the Campaign's anti-racist work — seeking fundamental changes in the procedures for redress operated by the IBA and other regulatory bodies.

K.H.

## Keep them coming — typed please, with double spacing — to arrive by March 1

### Cold Turkey

Just in case on one else noticed, may I draw your attention to the different treatment of two news items yesterday.

One was the return to Moscow from internal exile of Dr. Sakharov.

The other related to the conviction and sentencing of 264 Turkish Trade unionists to terms of up to ten years in prison.

Headlines and pictures apart the

Daily Telegraph gave 3 1/2 column inches to Dr. Sakharov and 1 inch to the Turkish story. The Times gave 14 inches to the first and 2 1/2 to the latter; The Independent managed 14 to 5 1/2; the Guardian 22 to 10.

I hope that somehow Dr. Sakharov will see these comparisons. It is very unlikely that he would approve.  
**Bruce Kent.**

St John the Evangelist London, N1.

### Library Service

G. Clarke (FP 38) comments on public libraries' "limited selection of literature and newspapers/magazines" and the general lack of availability of left, left-of-centre, communist, or Marxist material.

His suggested 'Campaign for Democracy of Information' is a laudable idea but it might also be useful to mention the existence of The Library Campaign, an organisation of library workers, users, and supporters.

Its main objective is the defence of all publicly-funded library and information services from cuts, but it also has an interest in the points raised by G Clarke.

The Library Campaign publishes its own journal, The Campaigner, and it would be pleased to hear from other members of the CPBF on how the library service can make access to all information that much easier for society at large.

**Terry Hanstock**

The Library Campaign  
c/o Central Library  
Surrey Street  
Sheffield S1 1XZ.

### Angry about inserts

FP Editor writes: An anonymous CPBF member returned the Datasolve insert from FP 38, with comments all over it:

I do not expect this sort of thing to come with FP! I get invisibility and/or servility reamed down my throat too often (like all day long!) She drew attention to the fact that all the visual and written illustrations were of men (making decisions), except for one: 'Samantha, pass me the phone.' Her comments have been forwarded to Datasolve with a supporting letter. I had not see the insert prior to its dispatch. I shall have to scrutinise such material in future. As will the NUJ, who sent out the same insert, but it was our recruitment leaflet that offended one NUJ member:

cc. CPBF, London.

## Dumb-bells and not-so-dumb belles: yet another all-male preserve is bowing to the inevitable

### Palace's ladies in weighting

CHRIS THAU  
at Crystal Palace

WEIGHTLIFTING, that well defended bastion of masculine endeavour, is slowly and pleasantly being taken over by the light brigade of... did someone say the weaker sex?



Clean as a whistle: New champion Pauline Haughton lifts 75 kilograms in the clean-and-jerk to set British women's record in her class.

# NCCL

## Bill of Rights?



by Marie Staunton

The debate about a Bill of Rights is now one of the most frustrating topics for civil libertarians. The essential questions — will a Bill of Rights put judges above Parliament, or would it safeguard civil liberties — are often lost as participants argue at cross purposes.

Some of the most formidable objectors to constitutional reform are still arguing against an abandoned proposal for an entrenched Bill of Rights which would mean the introduction of a written constitution interpreted by a body of judges who would strike down laws passed by Parliament that are contrary to the Bill of Rights.

The present Bill of Rights proposal, makes no such drastic change; it would have the status of any other Act of Parliament and could be repealed at any time.

It would apply the principles of the European Convention on Human Rights to British Law unless Parliament decided they were not to apply to a specific Bill. Thus a Government enacting Anti-Terrorist legislation could state that notwithstanding the Bill of Rights, the detention provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act would apply.

This scheme does not put judges above Parliament, but we would gain a set a minimum standards from which the government would have to clearly derogate.

For the hundred or so individuals who have petitions pending at the European Commission of Human Rights there is no legal aid for the initial stages of a European application and they face the anxiety of a five year wait for a court decision. Even then the British Government takes a year or two to comply with court decisions. Incorporation would enable cases to be dealt with direct by British Courts.

Cases taken under the existing Convention have dramatically enforced the civil liberties in the UK, eg. restrictions on the publications of comment relating to Thalidomide (Sunday Times case); The use of corporal punishment in schools without parental consent; the fact that homosexual relations between consenting adults were unlawful in Northern Ireland.

One controversial case concerning the closed shop has led to trades union concern that the convention is being interpreted to uphold individual at the expense of collective rights.

Incorporation of the Convention into British Law is no substitute for the enactment of a set of positive rights in the relevant Act of Parliament.

At present may claims under the Convention fall on technical grounds and only two out of every five applicants received legal advice. Incorporation needs to be backed by an effective enforcement machine — such as a Human Rights Commission to assist applicants.

Perhaps the most important effect will be educational for the first time British schoolchildren could be taught a clear and comprehensible code of their civil liberties, a standard below which no British Government should be allowed to fall.

### Weightwatching Sid

I was disappointed at your negative and dismissive reaction to the British Gas share advert, (FP38).

Bodybuilders have a long struggle to gain recognition as a serious sport, and traditionalist have long singled out the female of the bodybuilding fraternity (sic) as an unfeminine freak.

What is "feminine" about slab OR matchstick arms I cannot imagine! I was pleased therefore to find find feminists in "Time Out" writing to welcome the advent of women' bodybuilding as a further assertion of their independence and ability to enter a male-dominated preserve.

British Gas, by using a female bodybuilder in a national advertising campaign are showing an enlightened attitude to this growing sport and to women in general — one that is open to all races without any discrimination whatever.

It was pleasing to find that British Gas also ran this ad in bodybuilding mags, so it was clearly acceptable to those who edit these magazines, who would not want a fellow (sic) sportsperson ridiculed in the public eye.

If you really want an offensive treatment of a female strength athlete, look at the condescending tones of this Observer article (above) — how do you think this weight lifter (also black) took those adjectives?

Bodybuilding, and the participation of black people of both sexes is here to stay. Traditionalists like yourselves should not try to mask your prejudice against female strength athletes under the catch all charge of "racism". And sexism will not do either for how can you show any bodybuilder in a boiler suit?

Come on, "Free" Press, its time to accept the new eighties woman, and that Black Power can be female too!

**Gerry Rawles**  
Bodybuilding Fan  
Oxford Moat House  
Wolvercote  
OX2 8A2

Inside my November 'Journalist' I found a promotional leaflet and membership application form from the organizers of the 'Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom'.

At the top of the first inside page the text quotes directly from the NUJ Code of Conduct "Journalists shall strive to eliminate distortion..."

Just under this, high-lighted with a black square, I read "Rupert Murdoch has imprisoned his journalists behind razor wire".

This is pure Orwellian doublespeak! The journalists come and go as they please. The razor wire is there to keep out unauthorized intruders.

How can we have any regard for the integrity of the CPBF when their own promotional material contains such a blatant example of journalistic distortion?

**Basil L. Jackson**  
Avenue Prince Charles  
Waterloo  
Belgium

APHRA VIDEO is a video production co-op which provides training and resources for women and community organisations.

APHRA VIDEO welcomes and encourages the participation of Black Minority Ethnic women.

**Diorama**  
14 Peto Place  
London NW1

**CAMPAIGN FOR PRESS & BROADCASTING FREEDOM**

*incorporating the Campaign Against Racism in the Media & the Television Users Group*

National Council 1986-87

- Chair — *Loretta Loach*
- Deputies — *Mike Power & Lesley Wood*
- Secretary — *Simon Collings*
- Treasurer — *John Beck*
- Free Press Editor — *Mike Jempson*
- Promotion — *Ruthie Borthwick*

Plus: *Alex Addo, Gary Armitage, Mike Britton, Harold Brookstone, Nicola Field, John Gray, Mark Hollingsworth, Ian Jamieson, Tony Lennon, Mark Lilly, Jane Lipman, Preethi Manuel, John Monks, John Morgan, Giles Oakley, Alf Parrish, Julian Petley, Alan Richardson, Dave Shepherd, Cherry Smyth, Mark Wadsworth, Caroline Williamson.*

Staff: *Perminder Dhillon-Kashyap & Kofi Hagan (Anti-racism), Julianne Dickey (Research); Tom O'Malley (Information/Right of Reply)*

Office Tel: 01 437 2795 (24 hours)

**MEDIA MANIFESTO CONFERENCE**  
Legislating for the Media  
Sat 4 April 1987  
10am-5pm

University of London Union,  
Malet St, WC1  
Nearest tube (Euston Sq/Russell Sq/Goodge St)

Workshops and public debates on the Media Manifesto, Full details inside or ring 01 437 2795

**CAMPAIGN AGM**  
From 10am on Sunday 5 April 1987

Polytechnic of Central London  
35 Marylebone Road, NW1  
(Baker St tube)

**MOTIONS AND NOMINATIONS TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL MUST REACH THE CAMPAIGN OFFICE BY FRI 20 FEB**

Creche facilities and overnight (Sat) accommodation available, but PLEASE give AT LEAST one week's notice.

Speakers include Juliet Alexander (Granada TV), Community Relations Officer Alex Bennett, and Ray Williams (Liverpool NGA). Nancy Jaeger and Mike Power will speak for the CPBF, and an ACTT representative is expected.

For more information about the Campaign on Merseyside contact Marjory Hayward on 051 526 8746.

**CAMPAIGN CASH CRISIS**

It's that time of year again, folks. If we are to keep present staff levels and continue to expand our workload, we need to raise £10,000 during 1987.

Renewed grant-aid may cover some of our basic costs, but we still need to boost our Staff Appeal Fund with new monthly Standing Orders. They have helped to keep our Administrator in post for almost two years.

If you are in work, why not share your good fortune. To meet the Staff Appeal target all we need is 100 members willing to donate £5 a month, leaving us with just £4,000 to raise from donations to meet our 1987 target. Use the form on P.3 if you can.

Of course another way to help is by signing up new members.

**Getting it together**

On Mon 16 Feb a Joint Meeting for Campaign Sub-Groups is to be held.

The idea is to lessen isolation and marginalisation of the different special interest groups, discuss their future, and provide better integration and co-ordination.

For details of the venue contact Julianne or Perminder at the Campaign Office: 01 437 2795.

**Disability Group**

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday 16 March, when we shall focus on Channel 4's new disability programme.

It will take place at 6.30pm in the Spastics Society, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1. Everyone welcome.

**ALL SUB-GROUPS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS ORGANIZED BY THE CPBF ARE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE**

**London Women's Group**

Our next meeting is planned for Wed 25 March. Ring Julianne or Perminder on 01 437 2795 for more details.

**Davy shuts his locker**

Davy Jones, who has served the Campaign well for the last three years as Administrator is off to pastures new (well, Islington actually, but its closer to home).

We wish him every success in his new job, and the Campaign's sincerest thanks for all the effort he has put in to keep us on the straight and narrow.

A careful examination of the Campaign's future staff needs is now underway with particular regard to financial constraints.

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

Copy for the FP40 should be typed with double-spacing and sent to the CBBF Office by March 1.

**New year Goodies in the North West**

As we went to press NW Campaigners were settling down to "Suds or Substance? — Soaps and the Press", with a galaxy of speakers from the Manchester media firmament. A report in the next issue, along with news of the "Local Radio and the Community" meeting planned for February 12.

On March 12 the subject of the CPBF night at the Manchester Cornerhouse will be "How Gays and Lesbians are portrayed in the Media", with Andrew Lumsden of the New Statesman, and Julianne Dickey from the Campaign's London Office.

For more details of activities in the North West, contact Nancy Jaeger on 061 832 6991.

**Liverpool Launch for Media Manifesto**

The Campaign's much-talked about Manifesto gets another airing on Thurs 19 Feb, this time on Merseyside.

Chaired by broadcaster Roger Phillips the Liverpool launch starts at 7.30 in the Merseyside Trades Union and Unemployed Resource Centre, 24 Hardman Street, Liverpool 1.

**JOIN CPBF HERE**

**PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE BOX**

- a) Individual membership £7 p.a.
- b) Unwaged £2 p.a.
- c) Household (2 copies of FREE PRESS) £10 p.a.
- d) Supporting membership (includes FREE CPBF publications) £15 p.a.
- e) Institutional membership (includes 10 copies of FREE PRESS, plus FREE CPBF publications) £15 p.a.

**Affiliation by organisation**

- f) Less than 1,000 members £12 p.a.
- g) 1,000 to 10,000 members £30 p.a.
- h) 10,000 to 50,000 members £60 p.a.
- i) 50,000 to 100,000 members £120 p.a.
- j) Over 100,000 members £300 p.a.

(If 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): .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: ..... Tel: .....

Where did you obtain your copy of FREE PRESS? .....

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