

## Review appoints Editorial Board

IN the launch edition of the *Rhodes Journalism Review*, we wrote that the next step in the development of a credible media journal for Southern Africa was to establish an Editorial Board that would reflect a broad spectrum of media interests in our region.

That Board is now taking shape and we have great pleasure in announcing our South African members:

- Mr Jim Bailey, publisher;
- Mr Tom Ferreira, President of the South African Association of Industrial Editors (SAAIE);
- Mr Aggrey Klaaste, Editor of *The Sowetan*;
- Mr Rory Macnamara, Executive Director of the Specialist Press Association (SPA);
- Mr Irwin Manoim, founder and joint-Editor of the *Weekly Mail*;
- Prof Es'kia Mphahle, Emeritus Professor of African Languages at the University of the Witwatersrand;
- Mr Steven Mulholland, Chief Executive of Times Media Limited (TML);
- Dr Kobus Nel, President of the Public Relations Institute of Southern Africa (Prisa);
- Ms Jane Raphaely, Editor of *Cosmopolitan*;
- Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, Editor of *New Nation*;
- Mr Harvey Tyson; consultant and former Editor-in-Chief of *The Star*;
- Mr Ton Vosloo, Managing Director of Nasionale Pers and chairman of M-Net;
- Mr Mike Wells, founder and retired Chairman of the Bates Wells Group.

Representing Rhodes University is Prof Ian Macdonald, Head of the Department of Philosophy.

Our next pressing task is to identify and appoint Board members from other countries in Southern Africa, individuals who share the vision of a sub-continental media journal, and we hope to introduce them to readers in our next edition.

It is a "pressing task" because there is urgent need to rebuild bridges in Southern Africa and for people in our region to start working together for mutual benefit – in our case to secure the future viability and independence of media. We must do so because the people of this region share a common destiny and the time for building has clearly arrived.

*Review* Board members are appointed for two-year periods and act in a consultative capacity only. They are not responsible for the content or display of any material appearing in *Review*.

The criteria for selection of Board members are that they have journalistic backgrounds and they must have made some notable contribution to media development in Southern Africa.

# editorial

## Getting to the bottom of things

A RECENT Markinor survey of 800 white women throughout South Africa paints a rather dismal picture of journalists.

According to the survey findings, South African women rank journalists lower than estate agents and insurance salesmen when it comes to honesty and ethics.

These findings evoked suitable outrage from working journalists, not the least of them former South African Union of Journalists (SAUJ) president, Bob Kernohan, who responded by saying, among other things, that "good journalists have the ability to get to the bottom of things..." It certainly appears the 800 white women who participated in the Markinor survey agree with Bob. Perhaps it is time for journalists to do something about the tarnished image of the profession.

That said, however, it remains a bitter irony of our situation that, having fought a valiant rearguard action to preserve the rights of all South Africans to unfettered information, the journalists – as the custodians of free speech through the darkest days of apartheid – have ended up with a credibility problem, while government politicians and the myriad apartheid functionaries who implemented the system and prosecuted its laws, end up on the side of the angels. As Margaret Thatcher dryly observed at the time of her demise from No 10, it is a very odd world indeed!

Still, 800 white South African women can't be entirely wrong, can they?

## Rhodes Journalism comes of age

THE Department of Journalism & Media Studies at Rhodes University celebrates its 21st anniversary this year. Since inception, it has grown into one of the largest departments at Rhodes while its graduates occupy senior media positions in many countries. The Department has always maintained close relationships with the media industry and we especially thank those companies and individuals who have helped to keep the Department at the cutting edge of the journalistic profession, and most recently the Argus Company and TML for their generous funding of a computer LAN.

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