

pornographic industry. A number of the images of women being degraded or violently treated came from mainstream sources. This was the particular reason for their inclusion in the journalism course.

Mr Apps agreed that whether the material was "horrific and pornographic" was a matter of opinion. However, he said, though a number of statements in the article were accurate, the story overall was inaccurate because of omission of balancing material.

The Press Council upholds Mr Apps' complaint on both grounds. The Council points out that deliberate omission of relevant facts is as unacceptable as the deliberate publication of false statements.

ADJUDICATION NO. 460

The Press Council has considered a complaint from a former Box Hill (Victoria) councillor against the *Progress Press* over an article and editorial dealing with the council's vote in support of an extension to Melbourne's Eastern Freeway and Ringwood bypass.

The complaint involves local politics dating back for several years and controversial issues concerning roads and environment, all set in the atmosphere of council elections.

Given the circumstances, the Press Council commends to the complainant, Mr Richard Anderson, the *Progress Press's* offer to publish a letter from him to explain his position and how he claims to have been misrepresented.

The Press Council understands Mr Anderson's objection to unsourced accusations made against him of varying, in a bid for votes, his position from opposition to the road plans to approval because of a change in his electoral boundaries. Nevertheless, there is no reason to believe such accusations were not made.

Another point raised by Mr Anderson was that the council vote was reported by the *Progress Press*, and then commented upon editorially, as being

decided on the casting vote of the mayor. Mr Anderson said that this was not so; the vote was five to four in favour of accepting the road plan, with no casting vote being used. It appears, since the paper does not deny it, that this was the case.

Much of the problem in this complaint is that Mr Anderson appears to some, rightly or wrongly, to have changed from opposition to the road plans to strong approval over a period of five years. Mr Anderson denies that

his approval was strong and points to his moving of a council motion to have an inquiry into the road plans, and the need for him during his mayoral term of 1988/1989 to speak as mayor, not merely for himself.

Mr Anderson also claims to have been quoted out of context, but as far as the Press Council can see this has not been clearly established.

The Press Council suggests Mr Anderson to take up the *Progress Press's* offer of publication. ●

ABOUT THE PRESS COUNCIL

The Australian Press Council was established in 1976 with the responsibility of preserving the freedom of the press within Australia and ensuring the maintenance of the highest journalistic standards, while at the same time serving as a forum to which anyone may take a complaint concerning the press.

It is funded by the newspaper industry, and its authority rests on the willingness of publishers and editors to respect the Council's views, to adhere voluntarily to ethical standards and to admit mistakes publicly.

The Council consists of 23 members. Apart from the chairman (who must have no association with the press), there are 11 industry representatives and eight public members, two journalist members and an editorial member (none of whom are affiliated with any newspaper publisher). The newspapers' representatives are drawn from the ranks of metropolitan, suburban and country publishers as well as from the AAP service. The public is represented by people from all walks of life.

The Press Council is able to amend its constitution with the approval of its constituent bodies. Significantly, great importance is placed on ~~the importance of~~ members acting as individuals rather than as the representatives of their appointing organisations.

Complaint Procedure

If you have a complaint against a newspaper or periodical, you should first take it up with the editor or other representative of the publication.

If the complaint is not resolved to your satisfaction, you may refer it to the Australian Press Council. A complaint must be specific, in writing, and accompanied by a cutting or clear photostat of the matter complained of, with supporting documents or evidence if any. Complaints must be lodged within three months of publication.

The Council will not hear a complaint subject to legal action or, in the Council's view, possible legal action, unless the complainant is willing to sign a waiver of the right to such action.

Address complaints or inquiries to:

Executive Secretary
The Australian Press Council
Suite 302, 149 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000

For information or advice telephone (02) 261 1930, and callers from outside the Sydney Metropolitan area can ring toll free on (008) 02 5712

A booklet setting out the aims, practices and procedures of the Council is available free from the above address. ●