

## Abstracts

### **Journalism and the Question of Moral Choice**

Cees J. Hamelink

The journalistic profession is challenged by the necessity of moral choice almost daily. The common methods of moral decision making do not provide adequate guidance. Journalistic professional codes are unhelpful in the resolution of moral choices. The core question is how a due process of editorial decision making can be designed. This calls for the exercise of a regular and systematic 'ethical dialogue'. A due and transparent process of editorial choice is likely to provide protection against interference with journalistic independence. This presumes, however, that media owners and managers allow their staffs adequate space for critical ethical reflection.

Key words: moral choice, media ethics, professional codes, editorial decision making, accuracy

### **Terrorism and the Media**

Els Volders

This article tries to put the controversial relationship between media coverage and the success of terrorism in perspective. According to most scientists the media are powerless instruments that are either used by the terrorists to create what they call 'a theater of terror', or by the authorities to create a powerful climate of vengeance. But if one takes other factors into account, like the influence of the public and the victims, or the ignorance of some journalists on the subject, there does not seem to be a universal harmony between media, terrorists and/or the authorities.

Key words: terrorism, mediareporting, authorities, victims, public

### **Mediaconduct of Students at the University of Gent**

Ann Laenen, Greet Riebbels and Frieda Saeys

This study examines the way in which students at the University of Gent use the 'classic' media: newspapers, magazines, radio, television, film and video. Two main topics of research are: which media are consulted and how intensively, and which messages and values are assumed during this consulting. For each medium the researchers examined whether differences in usage and preference became apparent depending on branch of study, year of study, gender and living in student houses or not. For this purpose 1.186 students were questioned by means of a written survey. The results show that the university students regularly use each of these media, and that gender is the variable which produces the most meaningful distinctions. Overall it becomes clear that different consumer types are distinguishable.

Key words: media use, university students, mediaconsumer types