

way can we be truly reconciled and live in peace together.

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A serious breach

ON May 31, 1990, I was asked to resign from my position as sub-editor at the Times of Namibia without having received any prior warning. Management claimed that my work was not satisfactory.

A colleague later informed me that he had been aware of the fact that I was to be fired before this was relayed to me. Surely this is a serious breach of confidentiality between employer and employee?

Many other questions in this regard remain unanswered. It was rumoured that because of the discrepancy between the salaries paid to reports and sub-editors, management had to fire one sub-editor in order to give a salary increase of R50 to each reporter.

The company's high staff turnover due to what appears to be a policy of indiscriminate 'hiring and firing' is disturbing. This policy creates an atmosphere of instability in the working environment and insecurity among staff employed by this establishment. It would appear that the problem here is not so much the quality of service but the financial situation of the newspaper. It is a pity that instead of trying to solve problems in a more constructive manner, staff are made by management to feel redundant.

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Police dilemma

I WONDER why you (Ms Gwen Lister) and some of your staff seek opportunities to discredit the government of the Republic of Namibia. I refer to the article 'Pepsi Boys - Lively Lions share the spoils' written by Conrad Angula on May 28. The statements implying that the Namibian police are discriminating

against sports lovers on the basis of colour are not only unfounded but also irresponsible.

I am convinced that you would make a significant contribution toward reconciliation and to peace and stability, if you order your reporters not to accept the version of 'one furious spectator' about the policy of the government or the actions of the police, but rather to check such allegations and emotive utterances with the relevant authorities.

Seeing that Mr Angula has a high office in soccer circles, I would recommend that he initiates a meeting between soccer administrators and the police to work out ways and means to ensure that soccer spectators can enjoy the game in peace and security. At such a meeting the police will explain their position and their dilemma.

Please contribute towards the good efforts of the Namibian Government to ensure law and order and to effect meaningful reconciliation, by not discrediting a government department just for the sake of an own political motive.

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Note: Brigadier Eimbeck, you have opposed this newspaper and all it stands for, since its inception. You even opposed the registration of The Namibian in a sworn statement, saying that Lister and her political background proved that the newspaper would become a 'threat to state security and the maintenance of public order'. You similarly opposed the party which now makes up the government of the day. You claim now to have changed your political viewpoint. Well and good. If this is truly the case then please stop your political tactics. Conrad Angula raised a very legitimate point in the article in question: namely, the lack of police presence for as long as we can remember, at soccer matches. There is a lot of hooliganism, and violent incidents, and last weekend was no exception as you are well aware. On the other hand, it is an undisputable

fact that rugby matches are well-monitored by the police (Last weekend's match against Wales for example). You can make your own comparisons in this regard. Further, it is not the job of a reporter to initiate meetings between the police and soccer administrators. That's your job. His is to report on events as they occur. The Namibian supports the idea of a police force to maintain and uphold public order. It's a new concept for most Namibians who have in the past seen the police as their enemy (in most cases, quite rightly so) since the latter have acted against political opponents in most cases. So it's up to the police to prove themselves to the public in order to earn their trust and confidence.

Lastly, Brigadier, don't make such laughable statements such as "why you and some of your staff seek opportunities to discredit the government of the Republic of Namibia". You know quite well that this is not the issue here. - Gwen Lister.

On forgiveness

TRY forgiving a friend who betrays a confidence, or a co-worker who tells lies about you. When the real effort of forgiveness takes place, there is nothing easy about it. Instinct urges us to pay back in kind.

Some people are capable of heroic effort in reconciling; others not. There is usually a pause between the hurt and the time when trust and love can take root again. Forgiveness is part of a process that begins with hurt and ends, in its final goal, with reconciliation.

It works only when we become aware of the depths and causes of the anger burning in us so that we can forgive wholeheartedly and ensure an enduring peace.

Too often, we bypass forgiveness entirely. We race from our hurt to an apparent reconciliation without taking stock of what must truly be forgiven before lasting healing can take place. We try to get past the difficult part too quickly, for we have been programmed since childhood to keep a stiff upper lip, pretend that we are unaffected by the cruelty of others,